

Books of the Week

► THE SOIL has long been recognized as a great reservoir of fungi; they are among the most active organisms of decay, and they invade man's domain as causes of spoilage and, occasionally, of disease. Latterly some of them have received much notice as sources of antibiotics. Useful, therefore, as well as timely, is the appearance of a new MANUAL OF SOIL FUNGI by a well-known mycologist, Joseph C. Gilman. It is a book primarily for the professional botanist, giving detailed description of all species at present known. (*Iowa State Coll. Pr.*, \$5.)

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

► WITH MANKIND sobering up after the greatest orgy of self-slaughter in its bloody history, and ruefully resolving to at least attempt some kind of warless international order, one of the things that can be expected is international cooperation in wildlife conservation. Coming just in time to serve as a handbook in such an effort is a thorough-going review of all known facts about the status of mammals of the Eastern hemisphere: EXTINCT AND VANISHING MAMMALS OF THE OLD WORLD, by Francis Harper. The literature has been very thoroughly searched for records of last specimens taken in any given region, and for estimates of chances of survival where any remnants of a species are left. Careful descriptions are supplemented with many text figures. (*Amer. Comm. for Internat. Wild Life Protection*, New York, \$4.)

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

► MONUMENTS of American antiquity merit monumental treatment in their published descriptions; and one of them, at least, receives such treatment in the double volume, TIHUANACU: THE CRADLE OF AMERICAN MAN. The author, Prof. Arthur Posnansky of the University of La Paz, has devoted years to the broadest possible study of the ruins of this ancient culture center on the shores of Lake Titicaca, and he has set forth his facts and opinions with greatest care, garnished his pages with sumptuous illustrations. The book is bilingual, with the English translation and the Spanish original in parallel columns. (*J. J. Augustin*, \$25).

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

► MANY BOOKS about weapons have come out in the past half-dozen explosive

years; one of the best of them, for persons unversed in the technicalities and complexities of modern ordnance, is PRINCIPLES OF FIREARMS, by Charles E. Balleisen (*Wiley*, \$2.50). It assumes no knowledge whatever on the part of the reader, and tells the whole story from the beginning in the simplest and plainest English. All the illustrations are diagrams of a corresponding simplicity.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

► THE WAR may be over, but we have by now surely learned prudence; we shall keep our powder dry and our sighting eye in trim. For peacetime training of new marksmen, as well as for the improvement of veterans' shooting, there is a timely and useful book, PRACTICAL MARKSMANSHIP, by M. M. Johnson, Jr., well-known expert-at-arms. (*Morrow*, \$2.50).

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

► ANIMALS, and particularly what animals do and why they do it, are the subject of Ruth Crosby Noble's THE NATURE OF THE BEAST (*Doubleday*, \$2.75). Instincts, emotions, intelligence and its testing, animal play, mating behavior and home-making are among the subjects discussed.

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Just Off the Press

AMERICAN AIR NAVIGATOR—Charles Mattingly—*Ziff-Davis*, 229 p., illus., \$6. A training text for instructional purposes and a reference source for professional navigators.

THE FORTRESS ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC—William Herbert Hobbs—*J. W. Edwards*, 186 p., illus., \$2.50.

HOW A BABY GROWS: A Story in Pictures—Arnold Gesell—*Harper*, 77 p., \$2. Over 800 photographs arranged and interpreted with the assistance of Katherine Gesell Walden.

THE LIFE HISTORY OF AN AMERICAN NATURALIST—Francis B. Sumner—*Cattell*, 298 p., \$3.

MINERALS OF MIGHT—William O. Hotchkiss—*Cattell*, 206 p., \$2.50. A history of minerals and their influence on civilization.

NAMES ON THE LAND—George R. Stewart—*Random House*, 418 p., \$3. A historical account of place-naming in the United States.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY—Toward Individual Happiness and Social Progress—Samuel Lowy—*Emerson*, 194 p., \$3.

PEGUCHE, CANTON OF OTVALO, PROVINCE OF IMBABURA, ECUADOR—Elsie Clews Parsons—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 225 p., illus., \$3. A study of Andean Indians. Ethnological Series, University of Chicago publications in Anthropology.

THE RIVER MATHEMATICS—A. Hooper—*Holt*, 401 p., illus., \$3.75. A history of the development of mathematical ideas and processes over thousands of years.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

OFFICIAL STORY of the ATOMIC BOMB!

The epoch-making report on ATOMIC ENERGY prepared for the War Department gives the full and detailed information that everyone needs to understand the facts and implications of this important scientific development.

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