

Books of the Week

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ADVENTURES IN MAN'S FIRST PLASTIC; The Romance of Natural Waxes—Nelson S. Knaggs—*Reinhold*, 329 p., illus., \$6.75. Collecting waxes is adventure enough, but their relationship to the progress of civilization and modern arts and trades must be understood to appreciate them.

ANIMAL NUTRITION—Leonard A. Maynard—*McGraw-Hill*, 2nd., 494 p., illus., \$5. Incorporating the many striking advances in nutrition, this book is principally for students of farm animal nutrition. References, because of the war and unavailability of papers, are only to work carried out in the U. S.

THE CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS OF ORGANIC PIGMENTS—Lyde S. Pratt—*Wiley*, 359 p., illus., \$6. Providing a broad background of history, theoretical considerations of the relation between color and chemical and physical structure, raw materials, chemistry involved, structural types, and methods of testing known and unknown pigments, this manual provides the student with an appreciation of the factors involved in experimental investigation and industrial application.

EXERCISES IN ORGANIC SYNTHESIS—Jacob G. Sharefkin—*Crowell*, 60 p., paper, 75 cents. Dealing only with the aliphatic series, this handbook helps students select from general methods specific syntheses to solve their particular problems.

FUNDAMENTALS OF INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS—Walther Richter—*McGraw-Hill*, 569 p., \$4.50. With a minimum of mathematics, this textbook aims to reduce circuits containing vacuum tubes to their more familiar elements, so that both engineer and practical man can analyze them and then design their own.

IG FARBEN—Richard Sasuly—*Boni and Gaer*, 312 p., \$3. This account of the far-reaching influences of IG Farben on manufacturing, economics, and politics helps explain the recuperative ability of German science.

LIGHTING YOUR PICTURES—Don Mohler—*Ziff-Davis*, Little Technical Library, 147

p., illus., 95 cents. A practical discussion of best lighting effects.

MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA—Victor H. Cahalane—*Macmillan*, 682 p., illus., \$7.50. Divided into families, all are thoroughly discussed with respect to life histories, habits, distinguishing characteristics, habits, and range.

MINERALS YEARBOOK 1945—U. S. Dept. of the Interior—*Govt. Printing Office*, 1688 p., \$4. A review of the mineral resources and industries of the United States and their reconversion to peace; foreign min-

erals review also included.

RADICALISM AND CONSERVATISM TOWARD CONVENTIONAL RELIGION—Philip Morton Kitay—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.*, Contributions to Education No. 919, 117 p., \$2.10. A psychological study of a group of Jewish college students.

TELEVISION—Alfred N. Goldsmith et al.—*RCA Review*, Vol. III (1938-1941); Vol. IV (1942-1946), 486 and 510 p., illus., paper, \$1.50; cloth, \$2.50. Collections of essays dealing with advances in television and the various fields connected with these advances.

UNIT PROCESSES IN ORGANIC SYNTHESIS—P. H. Groggins—*McGraw-Hill*, 3rd ed., 931 p., illus., \$7.50. A systematic presentation of the principles and practices of organic reactions as applied to their technical application.

Science News Letter, July 12, 1947

SEISMOLOGY

St. Louis Quake Was Local

Weight of water may have caused earth movement but strain must have been accumulating for long time before the recent rains.

➤ THERE is a possibility that St. Louis's flood-time earthquake was triggered by the weight of the waters, both in the river and saturating the earth from near the surface down to bedrock, stated Dr. James B. Macelwane, S.J., in a Science Service interview. The actual strain in the crustal rock, which the quake relieved, had been accumulating for a long time, so the flood cannot have done more than add the final straw.

It was a strictly "home-grown" earthquake, for it was felt with equal intensity throughout the metropolitan area, all the way from Florissant, Mo., northwest of the city, to East St. Louis and the other towns on the Illinois shore of the Mississippi. There seems to have been no sharply marked epicenter. Dr. Macelwane thinks that the waterlogged condition of the soil may have had something to do with this unusual uniformity of intensity over a considerable area.

"I had gone to bed but was still awake when the shock occurred, shortly before midnight. I recognized immediately what it was, but was not at all excited, because it was only a little earthquake," said Dr. Macelwane.

Despite its slight intensity, the quake wrote large records on the University seismographs. It made a one-inch trace on a short-period Wood-Anderson instrument, and a four-inch one on a long-period Sprengnether. Apparently it

failed to record itself at other seismological observatories even at moderate distances from this city, for no telegraphic reports have come in.

It seems likely, Dr. Macelwane added, that the focus of the earthquake, its actual point of origin, was at a fairly considerable depth. St. Louis is built on clay of no great depth, overlying limestone strata about a mile thick. Beneath this is granite, and it was in this crustal rock that the jarring break occurred.

The present earthquake apparently had no relation to the New Madrid area, where one of the most violent quakes in American history occurred in 1809, sinking the land surface and creating several new lakes.

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Traffic accidents on American highways are due to several factors, an expert states; average cars are run 1,000 miles a year more than before the war, the average car is older, and highways are wearing out faster than repaired.

U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration is consulting the aviation industry with a proposed order standardizing airport runways as to lengths, widths and ground strength for different types of use.

On an average, one traffic accident in every 24 is fatal in darkness, and one in 37 in daylight.

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