

Books of the Week

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EX-COLOURED MAN:

The Vivid Story of a Negro Who Crossed the Colour Line—James Weldon Johnson—*New American Library*, 142 p., paper, 35 cents. Reprint of a book originally written anonymously and published by Knopf. The author was a Negro, but the book is not, actually, autobiographical; that being merely a device to call attention to the illogical character of race prejudice.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS (Journal

Canadien de Mathematiques), Vol. I, No. 1—H. S. M. Coxeter, Editor-in-Chief—*University of Toronto Press*, quarterly, \$6.00 per year or \$3.00 to members of certain mathematical associations.

DISTILLATION AND RECTIFICATION—Emil Kirsch-

baum—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 426 p., illus., \$10.00. The first English edition of a book of interest especially to those in the distillation industry. Translated by M. Wolfinghoff.

EDUCATION IN HAITI—Mercer Cook—*Govt.*

Printing Office, 90 p., illus., paper, 25 cents.

ENJOY YOUR CHILD—AGES 1, 2, AND 3—James

L. Hymes, Jr.—*Public Affairs Committee*, 32 p., illus., 20 cents. Useful hints on how to do what is right for your young child and still have fun with him.

GENERAL ENDOCRINOLOGY—C. Donnell Turner

—*Saunders*, 604 p., illus., \$6.75. A textbook presented as a fundamental aspect of biologic science rather than as a medical specialty.

HEATING, VENTILATING, AIR CONDITIONING

GUIDE, 1948—*American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers*, 1280 p., illus., \$7.50. Containing technical and reference material, a manufacturers' catalog section, and a membership list of the Society.

INORGANIC PROCESS INDUSTRIES—Kenneth A.

Kobe—*Macmillan*, 371 p., illus., \$6.00. A textbook containing basic information about these important chemical industries.

NEW HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS—Hubert J.

Bernhard, Dorothy A. Bennett and Hugh S. Rice—*McGraw-Hill*, rev. ed., 360 p., illus., \$3.00. Written by and for people who enjoy the stars. The first edition from which this is re-written was the work of members of the Junior Astronomy Club.

NEW TELEVISION: The Magic Screen—Raymond

F. Yates—*Didier*, 175 p., illus., \$2.75. A simple explanation for laymen of a complicated commonplace.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT: Selected Pa-

pers—Chester I. Barnard—*Harvard University Press*, 244 p., \$4.00. The author, who is president of N. J. Bell Telephone Co., is also co-author of the State Department Report on International Control of Atomic Energy. He gives here his impressions of different kinds of private and public organization.

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-

MENT IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1947—Department of State—*Govt. Printing Office*, 373 p., paper, 65 cents. International conferences attended by U. S. delegates will probably number 450 in 1948 as compared with an average of 75 annually before World War II. Those summarized in this volume include many on

science and related topics.

PROJECTIVE METHODS—Lawrence K. Frank—

Thomas, 86 p., \$2.75. A lecture intended to direct the attention of students and others to the various methods for studying personality by permitting the individual to "read into" various neutral situations his own characteristic interpretations.

THE SONGS OF INSECTS: With Related Material

on the Production, Detection, and Measure-

ENTOMOLOGY

Insects Menace Crops

► GRASSHOPPER HORDES are threatening crops in the northern Lake states and nearby prairie regions, reports from field entomologists to U. S. Department of Agriculture headquarters indicate. Wheat and the other small grains are largely out of harm's way, but corn and soybeans still have many weeks to go before they are "made," as have later cuttings of alfalfa and other hay crops.

Principal 'hopper concentrations are in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, with the situation nearly as serious in Iowa and Minnesota, states W. A. Baker of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Curiously enough, in the "chronic" grasshopper regions farther west and southwest the insects are not particularly troublesome, except for spotty outbreaks in South Dakota, Oklahoma and Arizona.

Severity of the grasshopper menace in the northern Midwest is believed to be due to the long drought of spring and early summer, which favored hatching and early survival. Rains in May and June, which usually beat a large proportion of the new-hatched 'hoppers into the ground, failed to materialize. At the same time, the drought checked the growth of wild vegetation on which grasshoppers normally do much of their feeding, and thus induced them to turn more towards cultivated plants.

Moderate to heavy rains over most of the threatened area within the past week or two found the grasshoppers too big to drown or pound into the ground. However, by encouraging the growth of wild vegetation they did some indirect good by diverting the insects' attention from the crops.

New counter-measures are receiving their first large-scale tryouts in the affected region. In place of the older sodium arsenite and sodium fluoride in bran-sawdust baits, two new organic chlorine compounds, Chlordane and chlorinated camphene or Toxaphene, are being sprayed or dusted directly on the vegetation. Another, benzene hexachloride, seems better adapted to use mixed with bait. Much still needs to be

ment of Sonic and Supersonic Vibrations—George W. Pierce—*Harvard University Press*, 329 p., illus., \$5.00. Those concerned with sound and supersonic signalling have a particular interest in the sounds of insects, many of which are outside the range of human hearing. Thus, this investigation from the physics laboratory at Harvard.

YELLOWSTONE—ITS UNDERWORLD: Geology and Historical Anecdotes of Our Oldest National Park—Clyde Max Bauer—*University of New Mexico Press*, 122 p., illus., \$2.00. A geologist of the National Park Service is author of this beautifully illustrated little book which gives informal answers to tourists and others who are curious as to what lies under the lovely scenery of Yellowstone.

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learned about all of these new weapons, however, Mr. Baker stated. Thus far their performance has been rather uneven; sometimes good, sometimes not so good. Factors still uninvestigated, like temperature or light, may affect the potency of the poisons in field use.

Chinch-bugs, usually grasshoppers' companions in evil-doing, have been quiescent so far, Mr. Baker reported. There have been some spotty outbreaks in Oklahoma and Missouri, but no mass activity. Benzene hexachloride and Chlordane have been used experimentally on the bugs where they could be found, but until real swarms of them appear somewhere it will not be possible to determine the anti-chinch-bug value of these new insecticides. The entomologists are waiting, and the first few billion chinch-bugs are likely to have a rough time of it.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Communism Is Poor Issue In Political Campaign

► COMMUNISM will not be an issue in the coming political campaign if the leading candidates follow the psychological advice of Robert C. Myers, visiting lecturer at Princeton University. Mr. Myers discussed political psychology as guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on Adventures in Science heard over the Columbia network.

It is not that the American people do not hate communism, but just that all are agreed in finding it very bad. It would not be plausible to tag an opponent as an agent of communism, or for each to claim that he is against it.

"It would be as silly," Mr. Myers said, "as if every candidate for office in the dairy state of Wisconsin should hang his campaign on the fact that he was distinguished because he hated oleomargarine—and hated it with a fervor greater than that of any of his opponents."