

• Books of the Week •

TO SERVE YOU: To get books, send us a check or money order to cover retail price. Address Book Dept., SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W. Washington 6, D. C. Ask for free publications direct from issuing organizations.

A BRIEF BIOLOGY—James Watt Mavor—*Macmillan*, 427 p., illus., \$4.00. A text for a brief course following, in general, the presentation in the author's work, "General Biology."

THE CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF ENZYMES—Henry Tauber—*Wiley*, 550 p., illus., \$7.50. An up-to-date, technical review of enzyme chemistry including a section on the practical uses of enzymes in medicine, brewing, food industries, and textile, paper and leather industries.

EDUCATION IN PANAMA—Delia Goetz—*Govt. Printing Office*, 90 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. A report of the problems of a country having only 83,000 enrolled in school out of a school age population of 120,000.

EDUCATION IN VENEZUELA—Delia Goetz—*Govt. Printing Office*, 104 p., illus., paper, 30 cents. Timely study of the educational problems and how they are being handled, including the campaign against illiteracy.

ELEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY—Gilford G. Quarles—*McGraw-Hill*, 2d ed., 345 p., illus., \$4.50. A text for college students. The chapter on color photography has been rewritten and the whole text revised to improve its teachability.

HOW TO BE HEALTHY IN HOT CLIMATES—Eleanor T. Calverley—*Crowell*, 275 p., \$3.00. A handy book for those who are planning to live in the tropics and must learn about tropical foods, illnesses, and necessary sanitary precautions. The author was for many years a medical missionary in Arabia.

IN THE DENTIST'S OFFICE: A Guide for Auxiliary Dental Personnel—G. Archanna Morrison—*Lippincott*, 242 p., illus., \$5.00. A handbook of information and hints for that pleasant young lady who not only makes your appointments and sends you bills but assists the dentist in his work on your teeth.

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE—J. W. N. Sullivan—*New American Library*, 192 p., paper, 35 cents. Reprint of a book originally published by Viking. A philosophical work.

PRACTICAL ANALYSIS: Graphical and Numerical Methods—Fr. A. Willers—*Dover*, 422 p., illus., \$6.00. A German work on calculation and its various graphical and mechanical aids. Translated by Robert T. Beyer.

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE GEOLOGY AND OIL POSSIBILITIES OF BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO—Carl H. Beal—*Geological Society of America*, 138 p., illus., \$3.00. Report of a study completed in 1921 for the Marland Oil Company plus additional information accumulated since. The survey was made under great difficulties during time of revolution when travel had to be by pack train in sections where the population was not more than one to 33 square miles.

RHEUMATIC FEVER NURSING CARE IN PICTURES—Sabra S. Sadler—*Lippincott*, 151 p., illus., \$3.50. Especially for parents who must care for a child confined to bed for complete rest.

SILICONES AND OTHER ORGANIC SILICON COMPOUNDS—Howard W. Post—*Reinhold*, 230 p.,

\$5.00. Includes a description of the research of Frederick S. Kipping who did the first organized work on organic compounds of silicon. It also tells how silicon compounds can be prepared both at ordinary and higher temperatures.

SOURCES OF FREE AND LOW-COST MATERIALS—*Civil Aeronautics Administration, Office of Aviation Training*, 17 p., paper, free upon request to publisher. A list of source material useful to the teacher.

YOUR COUGHS, COLDS AND WHEEZES—Joseph D. Wassersug—*Willfred Funk*, 277 p., \$2.95. What you can do about all the various kinds of sniffles and barks from the common cold to the "cigarette cough."

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

BIOLOGY

Russia Firing Scientists Who Hold Banned Ideas

► **COMPLETENESS** of the purge of Western, non-Soviet biological teaching in the USSR is indicated by the publication, in *SCIENCE* (Jan. 28), of a full translation of an article by S. Kaftanov, Minister of Higher Education in the USSR, which originally appeared in *Izvestia*. The translation is printed without editorial comment other than an expression of "the belief that it has high informational value for scientists in America."

Holders of the old, now banned, "foreign" ideas in biology, which are again roundly denounced as "reactionary" and "idealistic," have been dismissed from many positions in universities and research institutions and their places taken by men who agree with the now officially orthodox doctrines of Michurin, as interpreted by Academician T. D. Lysenko. The latter has been made head of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and his mentor, I. Present, has taken the key position of dean of the biological faculty at the University of Moscow.

Comrade Kaftanov is specific in confessing the sins of his own division of the Soviet government: "We must admit that the principal responsibility for the defects of the teaching of biology lies on the Ministry of Higher Education. . . . The first task of the Ministry must now consist in the elimination of defects in the field of biology teaching and in the clearing of the field for Michurin's doctrine."

Drastic changes must be made, the Minister continues, in curricula and textbooks, and "All biological chairs and faculties must be held and supported by qualified Michurinists, capable of developing the progressive Michurin's doctrines."

"The success of this reform in the teaching of biology in our colleges will depend

most of all upon the right choice of the teaching personnel."

This revolution in biological teaching does not stop with biology as such, or with its applications in such obvious applications of the science, as agriculture and forestry. It extends into the teachers' colleges and schools of medicine.

The article concludes with laudatory remarks on the activities of political heads of the government, notably Stalin, as guides to what is right in scientific research and teaching:

"Thanks to the Bolshevik Party and, personally to Comrade Stalin, ways for the further triumphant march of the most progressive Michurin biological science are now clear. The scientists of our colleges will apply, from now on, all their energy to the propaganda of Michurin's biology and to the support of undivided rule of Michurin's biological doctrine in our higher educations of learning."

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HORTICULTURE

Use Garden Hose to Rid Trees of Ice

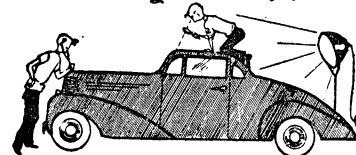
► **BRANCH-THREATENING** burdens of glaze ice on your favorite shade or fruit trees can be removed by turning the garden hose on them. Even though the water may seem mighty cold to you, it is above freezing-point, and it will warm up the ice sheathing enough to loosen it. Then the force of the stream will dislodge the pieces.

This method is not to be recommended when the temperature is below the mid-twenties. However, glaze ice seldom forms in really cold weather; rain from a slightly warmer above-ground stratum falling into ground-level air in which objects are only a little below ice-forming temperatures is the usual cause of glaze.

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CAR BUYERS BEWARE

Don't Get "Stuck"!



Read "HOW TO BE AN EXPERT CAR BUYER."

Complete and practical information for anyone who may buy a new or used car this year. Its 96 pages cover everything—how to avoid buying a "lemon," a stolen car, a disguised taxi; exposes 36 dealers' tricks; fair financing, prices, trade-ins, insurance; 56 simplified car tests; the real costs of owning and operating a car; etc. Highly commended by R. J. Schmunk, Pres. of AAA. It's authoritative, indispensable and invaluable. Save money and headaches. Learn how not to "get stuck." Order now from your bookstore. Sears Catalog or:

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