

THE STORY OF MOUNTAINS—Ferdinand C. Lane—*Doubleday*, 488 p., illus., \$6.50. A description of the mountains in the world. Profusely illustrated with full paged black and white photographs.

STUDIES IN LOBOTOMY—Milton Greenblatt, Robert Arnot and Harry C. Solomon, Eds.—*Grune and Stratton*, 495 p., illus., \$10.00. A monograph on an important brain operation.

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RADIATION INSTRUMENT CATALOG—AEC Radiation Instruments Branch—*AEC Technical Information Service*, (Distributed by Office of Technical Services, U. S. Dept. of Commerce), Catalog No. 2, Parts 1 & 2, unpagged, illus., paper, \$2.00 for both parts. A catalogue of commercially available radiation instruments.

THE URINARY FUNCTION OF THE KIDNEY—A. V. Wolf—*Grune and Stratton*, 363 p., illus., \$7.50. A monograph discussing many of the latest developments in renal physiology and related fields.

VARIABILITY OF AGRONOMIC AND SEED COMPOSITIONAL CHARACTERS IN SOYBEANS AS INFLUENCED BY VARIETY AND TIME OF PLANTING—Martin G. Weiss and others—*Gov't. Printing Office*, U. S. Dept. of Ag. Tech. Bull. No. 1017, 39 p., illus., paper, 15 cents.

VERTICAL FARM DIVERSIFICATION—D. Howard Doane—*University of Oklahoma Press*, 183 p., illus., \$2.75. Methods of grading, processing and direct selling are presented.

WHERE CHILDREN LIVE AFFECTS CURRICULUM—Effie G. Bathurst—*Gov't. Printing Office*, Federal Security Agency Bull. 1950, no. 7, 77 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. The author suggests curricular improvements for different parts of the country.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1950

PUBLIC HEALTH

Tattooing May Spread Virus of Jaundice

► **WARNING** to sailors and other servicemen: Think twice before getting tattooed. You may get a liver inflammation with jaundice from the tattooing.

Among 26 enlisted men in the hospital in Panama City with this jaundice, 18 had been tattooed in Panama City, 17 at the same place, and all of them within the time it takes jaundice to develop after virus gets into the body. The cases are reported by Dr. Ballard F. Smith, now at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Buffalo, N. Y., (*JOURNAL, AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*, Dec. 2).

After seeing these cases, Dr. Smith investigated further and became convinced the jaundice virus was being spread with the tattoo needle and dye. All tattooing was ordered suspended in Panama City and Colon until the operators had been instructed in more hygienic methods. After that, two establishments on the Pacific side and one on the Atlantic side of the Canal Zone reopened and followed the approved procedure.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1950



Christmas Trees

► **THIS** is the season when 28,000,000 little trees are brought into 28,000,000 unseasonably warm front parlors and loaded down with enough tinsel, twinkling balls and colored lights to build a glittering highway from earth to the moon.

The little evergreens never flowered when they grew out of doors. Suddenly they sprout bright candles or complete electric systems for blossoms. Apples, oranges and candy canes appear in their boughs in a burst of fruit. It takes real magic for such things to occur. But this is a time of benign magic.

Christmas trees, like many other things which decorate homes at Yuletide, are older than Christmas itself. They were first used in lands far from Bethlehem. They belong to the North, to dark and savage lands beyond the Rhine and the Danube.

The favorite Christmas tree in America is the spruce. There are several types of spruce, but they all can be spotted by their short, sharp, prickly needles, each one standing on a miniature pedestal by itself. Their small cones hang downward.

Then there is the fir, close cousin of the spruce. Firs have softer needles, usually curved, and their cones stand straight up.

Pine trees, often used at Christmas, can be told from spruce or fir by the fact that their needles come in bunches or pairs instead of singly. White pines always have five needles in a bunch. The various yellow pines have less than five—usually two.

Red cedar has very fine, feathery branches of small pointed leaves. *Arbor-vitae*, a relative of the red cedar, has leaves flattened into tiny scales which completely cover the twigs on which they grow.

Gigantic is the merchandising machine which brings millions of these trees from mountain forests to city street corners, all within the brief month between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Yet only in rare instances does this mighty splurge of woodland cutting hurt the forest. If the Christmas tree marketer cuts selectively, his thinning helps the remain-

ing trees to grow, trees which might otherwise have died from crowding.

Many families do not buy a cut tree at all, but instead a small spruce or fir planted in a tub. They use this as a perennial Christmas tree, bringing it indoors each December, sinking the tub in the garden during the remainder of the year. Children and tree grow together, until one day the parlor ceiling is suddenly too low. The magic still lives, but the tub is outgrown.

Science News Letter, December 16, 1950

NUTRITION

Bottled Pancakes Soon From the Milkman

► **FIVE** new or newly-packaged dairy products may soon be delivered to your doorstep by the milkman, according to H. B. Hubbell of the dairy industry division of the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station.

Here's what you can look forward to:

1. Milk in any of several popular fruit flavors—raspberry, strawberry, cherry, and orange. And of course, there is always the old favorite, chocolate milk.

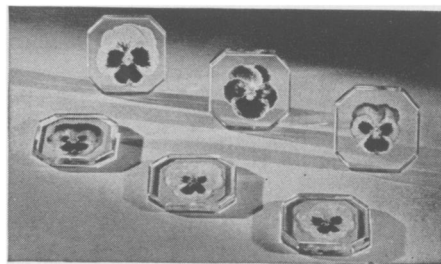
2. Half-and-half, a cereal cream that takes the place of the top milk that is disappearing with the rise in favor of the homogenized product.

3. A new bottled pancake mix, ready to pour on the skillet for breakfast hot cakes, containing fresh milk products. A similar waffle mix is also on the market. These are packaged in paper containers and may be ordered for delivery along with the morning milk, butter, and the various cottage cheeses.

4. Sour cream—also a popular dairy food. Its use is similar to that of mayonnaise. Seasoned, it makes an excellent dressing for fruit and vegetable salads.

5. Yogurt—while not new—is now packaged in half-pint containers. It is being widely used in reducing diets. Containing the milk-solids-not-fats, it has many uses indicated on the paper carton in which it comes.

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REAL PANSY COASTERS

These attractive coasters were made by embedding real pansies in Castolite, a new liquid casting plastic. With it students embed real flowers, butterflies, shells, photos, medals, etc. to make unusual jewelry, buttons, coasters, plaques, tiles, book ends, trays, other distinctive objects. Successfully used by hundreds of schools and colleges. Write for new FREE folder "Liquid Magic" showing things students can make. Many ideas for Christmas. The Castolite Company, Dept. TP-50, Woodstock, Ill.