

• Books of the Week •

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ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE HYDROGEN BOMB—Gerald Wendt—*Medill McBride*, 192 p., illus., \$2.75. Presents some of the principles of the hydrogen bomb and briefly discusses future possibilities of this anticipated discovery.

COSMIC RAYS—Louis LePrince-Ringuet—*Prentice-Hall*, 290 p., illus., \$6.65. Discusses what is known of the nature, origin and effects of cosmic rays. Translated from the French by Fay Ajzenberg.

THE DISPENSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Vols. I and II—Arthur Osol, Ed.-in-chief and George E. Farrar, Jr.—*Lippincott*, 1950 ed., 2057 p., \$25.00. Provides current data on many new and old drugs.

FIRE EFFECTS OF BOMBING ATTACKS—Civil Defense Liaison Office—*Gov't. Printing Office*, 45 p., illus., paper, 15 cents. A booklet telling of the effectiveness of incendiary bombs when used in warfare and the factors contributing to fire susceptibility of American cities.

HANDBOOK OF SOUTH AMERICAN INDIANS, Vol. 6: Physical Anthropology, Linguistics and Cultural Geography of South American Indians—Julian H. Steward, Ed.—*Gov't. Printing Office*, 715 p., illus., \$5.00. This final volume in an authoritative series is arranged topically and applies to all South America.

HISTAMINE ANTAGONISTS—Frederick Leonard and Charles P. Hutterer—*National Research Council*, 122 p., paper, \$1.50. A study of compounds having the specific property of counteracting the physiological effects of histamine, such as the new preparations used against colds.

HUMAN BIOLOGY—George Alfred Baitzell—*McGraw-Hill*, 2nd ed., 730 p., illus., \$6.00. A college text revised.

AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY—Herbert S. Klickstein—*Mallinckrodt Chemical Works*, illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, Department of Education, 2nd and Mallinckrodt Sts., St. Louis 7, Mo.

PHYSIOLOGICAL HYGIENE—Cleveland Pendleton Hickman—*Prentice-Hall*, 3rd ed., 557 p., illus., \$5.15. A college text brought up-to-date.

YOUR SKIN AND ITS CARE

By H. T. Behrman, M.D., and O. L. Levin, M.D.

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PLANT PATHOLOGY—John Charles Walker—*McGraw-Hill*, 699 p., illus., \$7.50. An introductory text.

PSYCHOSOMATICS AND SUGGESTION THERAPY IN DENTISTRY—Jacob Stolzenberg—*Philosophical Library*, 152 p., \$3.75. A handbook on how to better relationships between a dentist and his patients.

RADIO AND TELEVISION ALMANAC: Men, Events, Inventions and Dates That Made History in Electronics from the Dawn of Electricity to Radar and Television—Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr.—*Harper*, 211 p., illus., \$4.00.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE WESTERN PUEBLOS—Fred Eggan—*University of Chicago Press*, 373 p., illus., \$6.00. A study of the social structures of the Hopi, Hano, Zuni, Acoma and Laguna Indians.

TECHNICAL OPTICS, Vol. II—L. C. Martin—*Pitman*, 344 p., illus., \$7.50. The second volume of the author's former work entitled "An Introduction to Applied Optics." This work includes some of the latest advances.

TREE GROWTH AND RAINFALL—A STUDY OF CORRELATION AND METHODS—Waldo S. Glock—*Smithsonian Institution*, 47 p., illus., paper, 30 cents.

VOICES OF FREEDOM 1901-1950—Robert McCormick, Narrator—*Educational Services*, \$5.95. A long-playing record depicting a half-century of American progress. Actual voices of great Americans such as William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft and Thomas Alva Edison are included.

Science News Letter, January 6, 1951

MEDICINE

New Drug Successful For Morphine Addicts

► SUCCESS with a new drug for treating morphine addicts was reported by Drs. Havelock Fraser and Harris Isbell of the U. S. National Institute of Mental Health at the meeting of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in Boston.

The drug may also have great military and civilian value as a pain-reliever in first aid treatment, Drs. Fraser and Isbell pointed out. Its advantage in such cases is that it can be taken by mouth, instead of having to be given by hypodermic injection. It takes effect quickly and the effect lasts from 30 to 48 hours.

The drug is called acetylmethadol and is related to one of the new pain-relieving drugs, methadone.

It seems to be better than other drugs used to help morphine addicts taper off from morphine because its effect lasts longer and only one dose a day need be given, instead of three or four doses of morphine.

The new drug is addicting, like mor-

phine, so its use must be carefully regulated. Until further trials have been made, it should not be fully accepted for relief of pain, Drs. Fraser and Isbell warned.

A further advantage of acetylmethadol is that it is a synthetic chemical which could prove an excellent substitute for morphine and other opium derivatives for which the United States is dependent on imported supplies.

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Hardwoods are now becoming an important source of wood pulp for papermaking, thanks to new treatment processes.

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