

Books of the Week

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AMERICA'S BABY BOOK—John O. Montgomery and Margaret Jane Suydam—*Scribner's*, 457 p., \$3.50. Guide to infant and child care in the middle-of-the-road manner currently supported by pediatricians and psychiatrists. Covers material from prenatal period to preschool child. Outstanding photographs.

ANCIENT HISTORY: From Prehistoric Times to the Death of Justinian—Charles Alexander Robinson, Jr.—*Macmillan*, 738 p., illus., \$6.00. A connected account of the most important matters from the earliest times to 565 A. D.

THE APACHE INDIANS; Raiders of the Southwest—Sonia Bleeker—*Morrow*, 157 p., illus., \$2.00. Second in a junior series about North American Indians, written by an anthropologist who has studied them for many years.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON: Year-book No. 49—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 220 p., paper \$1.00, cloth \$1.50. Reports of departmental and cooperative studies and administrative data 1949-50.

GEM HUNTER'S GUIDE—Russell P. MacFall—*Science and Mechanics*, 187 p., illus., \$3.00. A key to the gem minerals of the U. S. for the hobbyist or the treasure hunter.

THE GREAT WHALES—Herbert S. Zim—*Morrow*, unnumbered p., illus., \$2.00. Eighth of Dr. Zim's science books answers whale questions simply and with many illustrations.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS IN GERMANY: Report of a Conference on Problems of Health and Human Relations in Germany, Princeton, N. J., June, 1950.—*Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation*, 207 p., paper, \$1.00. Conference sponsored by Foundation with cooperation of Children's Bureau and National Institute of Mental Health (USPHS) with approval of State Department.

THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE—Fred Hoyle—*Harper*, 142 p., illus., \$2.50. A general theory of the vast problem of time and space, combining generally accepted theories of modern cosmology with the author's own concepts.

NORTHEASTERN LOGGERS' HANDBOOK—Fred C. Simmons—*Govt. Printing Office*, 160 p., illus., 75 cents. Department of Agriculture Handbook No. 6 for inexperienced woodsmen gives how-and-why of care and use of logging tools and emphasizes workers' safety.

NO WOMAN'S COUNTRY: Travel in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan—Michael Langley—*Philosophical Lib.*, 221 p., illus., \$4.50. First-hand information gained during the author's service with the Sudan government; gives the pros and cons of Sudanese independence and Britain's role in the Nile Valley.

NUTRITIVE REQUIREMENTS AND FEED FORMULAS FOR CHICKENS—H. R. Bird—*Govt. Printing Office*, 28 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. Department of Agriculture Circular No. 788 telling what to feed and how to feed it.

PHOTOMETRIC ATLAS OF THE NEAR INFRA-RED SOLAR SPECTRUM—Orren C. Mohler, A. Keith Pierce, Robert R. McMath, and Leo Goldberg—*Univ. of Mich.*, unnumbered p., \$4.00. Technical book for workers in spectroscopy and astrophysics, consists mostly of tracings.

PSYCHOLOGY IN USE: A Textbook in Applied Psychology—F. Stanley Gray, Ed., *American Book*, 2d edition, 550 p., \$4.75. Essentially the same staff of contributors brings the 1941 text up to date, includes new chapter on "Psychology in Warfare."

REFERENCE BOOKS: A Brief Guide for Students and Other Users of the Library—Mary Neill Barton, Ed.—*Enoch Pratt Free Library*, 99 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. Second edition of valuable aid to library user, not directed to librarians.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF EDUCATION—David T. Blose—*Govt. Printing Office*, 50 p., paper, 20 cents. Chapter 1 of the Biennial Survey made by the Federal Security Agency, Office of Education, gives 1947-48 data on education in the United States.

TRENDS IN GERONTOLOGY—Nathan W. Shock—*Stanford Univ.*, 153 p., \$2.50. Analyzes the problems of the aging population and provides a groundwork for their solution. Written by the Chief of the Section on Gerontology, National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health.

THEORY AND APPLICATION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING—Eugene W. Schilling—*Int. Textbook*, 402 p., illus., \$6.50. Textbook of essential background information for engineers in general, with special attention to electronics and illumination.

Science News Letter, March 17, 1951

MEDICINE

Cortisone Helps Fight Against Tuberculosis

➤ **CORTISONE**, adrenal gland hormone famous for the relief it gives painful, crippled joints in arthritis, is giving scientists new light on the root of the tuberculosis problem.

Because it acts like a two-edged sword, cortisone would be extremely dangerous to use in treatment of tuberculosis, Dr. Max B. Lurie, of the Henry Phipps Institute, University of Pennsylvania, warned.

Dr. Lurie and Drs. Peter Zappasodi, Arthur M. Dannenberg, Jr., and Irene B. Swartz have been giving the gland chemical to rabbits. They find it has two effects which are direct opposites:

1. Cortisone increases multiplication of tuberculosis germs, or bacilli, inside the cells. This would make it "tremendously dangerous" to give human TB patients.

2. It localizes the germs at the portal of entry and stops their spread through the rest of the body.

If cortisone is stopped, however, this beneficial effect is lost and the animal will die because of the increased multiplication of germs that has gone on under cortisone's influence.

The cortisone studies are part of a search for the constitutional factors that affect susceptibility and resistance to tuberculosis. Cortisone is only one of many chemicals produced by the adrenal glands. When scientists know how an excess of each of these chemicals affects tuberculosis infection, they may have clues to better methods of treatment or of improving resistance to the great white plague. Details of the studies are reported in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Mar. 2).

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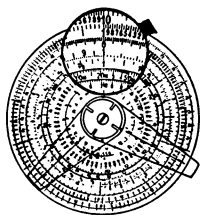
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