

# Books of the Week

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**AEC CONTRACT POLICY AND OPERATIONS**—Atomic Energy Commission—*Govt. Printing Office*, 158 p., paper, 40 cents. Part one reports what is not classified about progress and activities in research programs. Part Two gives information of value to universities and other research institutions that might have contracts with AEC.

**ATOMIC ENERGY AND YOU**—*Los Angeles City School Districts*, 47 p., paper, 25 cents. Representing a synopsis of the Civil Defense training courses given at the University of California at Los Angeles.

**BASES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR: A Biologic Approach to Psychiatry**—Leon J. Saul—*Lippincott*, 150 p., illus., \$4.00. Introducing psychiatry as a part of biology and physiology. The author points out that man, living today physically in the Atomic Age, lives emotionally in the Stone Age.

**FROM THE LIFE OF A RESEARCHER**—William Weber Coblentz—*Philosophical Library*, 238 p., illus., \$4.75. The charmingly written autobiography of a well-known physicist who specialized on the study of thermal radiation.

**GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA**—N. T. Mironov—*Wiley*, 362 p., maps, \$6.50. The author, a Russian-born lecturer at the University of California, gives many interesting details regarding this little-known land. Did you know, for example, that in Russia the "eye" of a needle is called its "ear," and a "blind street" is there called a "deaf street"?

**THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE ON SOCIETY**—Bertrand Russell—*Columbia University Press*, 64 p., \$2.00. "Science," the author says, "offers the possibility of far greater well-being for the human race than it has ever known before . . . on certain conditions—abolition of war, even distribution of ultimate power, and a limitation of the growth of population."

**INVENTORIES OF APPARATUS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING SCIENCE: Volume II, Universities**—UNESCO (*Columbia University Press*). 144 p., paper, \$2.00. Science course content and teaching apparatus used, prepared to serve as a guide in educational rehabilitation and an aid in bringing about equivalence of degrees and diplomas.

**INVENTORIES OF APPARATUS AND MATERIALS FOR TEACHING SCIENCE: Volume III, Technical Colleges, Part I Veterinary Sciences**—UNESCO (*Columbia Univ. Press*), 97 p., paper, \$1.20. Courses taught in various countries and material and apparatus needed, published as an aid in bringing about equivalence.

**THE JOY OF FLOWER ARRANGING**—Helen Van Pelt Wilson, Ed.—*Barrows*, 252 p., illus., \$3.95. A beautifully illustrated book for the beginner or the ribbon winner. A chapter by a gifted arranger for each month of the year.

**THE LAST GREAT HOPE**—Tom Slick—*Naylor Co.*, 75 p., \$2.00. The author describes his own plan for avoiding war.

**NATIVE ORCHIDS OF NORTH AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO**—Donoval Steward Correll—*Chronica Botanica*, 399 p., illus., \$7.50. An artistic volume for orchid growers and lovers as well as for botanists and horticulturists.

**PROJECTS IN GENERAL METALWORK**—M. J. Rulley—*McKnight*, 78 p., illus., \$2.00. How to make a variety of useful articles for the home, with blueprints, list of material required and steps in construction.

**THE STORY OF METALS**—John W. W. Sullivan—*American Soc. for Metals and Iowa State College Press*, 290 p., illus., \$3.00. Answering in readable style many questions of the layman and his young son.

**STUDIES IN LATE TERTIARY PALEOBOTANY**—Daniel I. Axelrod—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 323 p., illus., paper, \$2.75, cloth \$3.25. Includes four papers dealing with Pliocene floras in California and two discussing theoretical problems.

**A STUDY OF CLASSIC MAYA SCULPTURE**—Tatiana Proskouriakoff—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 209 p., illus., paper, \$5.75, cloth \$6.25. A method of stylistic analysis for use in estimating the relative dates of Maya monuments. Contains a list of monuments with their estimated dates.

**TEXTBOOK OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**—Catherine Parker Anthony—*Mosby*, 3d ed., 614 p., illus., \$4.00. Revised to include considerably more physiology because of its increased emphasis in the training of nurses.

**TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**—George H. Bell, J. Norman Davidson and Harold Scarborough—*Williams & Wilkins*, 918 p., illus., \$9.00. An introductory text for medical, pharmacy and other students. The work is the result of collaboration between a physiologist, a biochemist and a clinician.

**THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS 1950**—NACA—*Govt. Printing Office*, 69 p., paper, 40 cents. An administrative report without technical reports.

**VIRUS AND RICKETTSIAL DISEASES**—S. P. Bedson, A. W. Downie, F. O. MacCallum and C. H. Stuart-Harris—*Williams & Wilkins*, 383 p., illus., \$5.50. Written mainly from the etiological point of view with emphasis on the diagnostic aids that the laboratory can give to the clinician. Of British authorship.

**THE WAY TO SECURITY**—Henry C. Link—*Doubleday*, 224 p., \$2.50. A psychologist writes on how to attain psychological and spiritual security.

## MEDICINE

### Cancer Clue Comes From Shock Research

➤ CLUES to the essential nature of the transformation of normal cells to cancer cells are coming, "somewhat surprisingly," from research on shock carried on by the

Sheffield Traumatic Shock Team and reported by Dr. H. Green and M. Savigear of the University of Sheffield in the *British Medical Journal* (March 10).

Cortisone and ACTH, famous chemicals that relieve crippling and pain in arthritis, have played a part in unearthing the clues to cancer formation.

Cortisone and shock and, probably, ACTH all have the power to stop the process of cell division called mitosis, the Sheffield scientists found. The cells of mouse skin were the kind studied.

When, however, the mouse skin was painted with a cancer-causing chemical, the skin became refractory to the anti-mitosis action of shock and cortisone. The cells went on dividing in spite of the cortisone or the shock given the animal. Various transplanted cancers were also insensitive to the anti-mitosis action of cortisone and shock.

This resistance to normal growth-regulating agents has often been assumed or claimed as a property of the cancer cell. Even the layman is likely to speak of the "wild" or "uncontrolled" growth of cancer. But, the Sheffield scientists state, "the property has never been precisely demonstrated experimentally."

"It may be that this work not only reveals the existence of such a property but offers an approach to an elucidation of its nature," they declare.

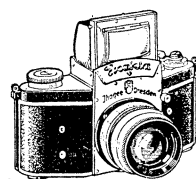
Cortisone and shock, they believe from their studies, check cell division, or mitosis, by interfering at one or more stages of the body's utilization of sugars and starches.

Science News Letter, March 24, 1951

Grass and weed killing chemicals are replacing the man with the hoe in American cotton fields.

The whooping crane is one of the nearly extinct species; 32 were counted in Texas in a recent aerial survey.

The leafy wastes of many vegetables can be converted into high-quality feed for farm animals by a drying process.



### EXAKTA "V"

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**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH MINIATURE CAMERAS** by Alfred M. Bailey (Denver Museum of Natural History). This eminent explorer and scientist displays his finest Exakta photographs and others along with explanatory material. 64 pages . . . . . 50c

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