

# 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 publication direct from issuing organization.

**ASTRONOMY OF STELLAR ENERGY AND DECAY: A General Reader's Outline of Facts and Theories About the Life-History of Stars, and a Student's Introduction to Their Radiation, Steady or Varying or Catastrophic**—Martin Johnson—Dover, 216 p. illus., \$3.50. Divided into two parts, one for the general reader, the other containing quantitative arguments.

**THE BACULUM OF THE GORILLA**—D. Dwight Davis—Chicago Natural History Museum, 3 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. A technical description of these bones as found in a lowland gorilla, "Bushman," and a wild mountain gorilla.

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON "THE EFFECTS OF X-RAY ON BACTERIA"**—Radcliffe F. Robinson, Michael D. Phillips, and Margaret G. Nagelsen—Battelle Memorial Institute, 17 p., paper, free upon request to the publisher, 505 King Ave., Columbus 1, Ohio. Containing 178 references from 1896 to the present year.

**BIOLOGIA: An International Year-Book Devoted to the Pure and Applied Plant and Animal Sciences, Volume 2 (1950/51)**—Frans Verdoorn, Ed.—Chronica Botanica, 221 p., illus., paper, \$4.75. Devoted to the social science aspects of plant science. Originally intended to be published as a periodical but now become a year-book.

**THE COOKIE JAR**—Josephine Perry—Barrows, 7th Printing, 157 p., \$2.50. This recipe book of goodies from other lands, as well as the local variety, should contribute pleasantly to international understanding.

**EARLY AMERICAN DECORATING PATTERNS**—Peg Hall—Barrows, 150 p., illus., \$5.95. A guide for collectors, generously illustrated, partly in color.

**EQUIVALENT CIRCUITS OF ELECTRIC MACHINERY**—Gabriel Kron—Wiley, 278 p., illus., \$10.00. For use of engineers in solving practical problems. The only prerequisite, the author says, besides some familiarity with elementary theory of machines, is "an earnest desire to learn."

**HUMAN RELATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A Report of a National Student Conference held at Earlham College, March 29-31, 1951**—Francis J. Brown and Richard B. Anliot, Eds.—American Council on Education, 74 p., paper, \$1.00. Report of a conference on

how to encourage the equalization of opportunities for higher education.

**MATHEMATICS OF INVESTMENT**—Paul R. Rider and Carl H. Fischer—Rinehart, 359 p., \$5.00. For those lucky enough to have spare sums of money available. Includes tables of compound interest, mortality, and logarithms.

**NAVAHO MEANS PEOPLE**—photographs by Leonard McCombe, text by Evon Z. Vogt and Clyde Kluckhohn—Harvard University Press, 159 p., illus., \$5.00. A beautiful photographic portrayal of the daily life and rituals of this tribe.

**NEW CONCEPTS OF HYPNOSIS: As an Adjunct to Psychotherapy and Medicine**—Bernard C. Gindes—The Julian Press, 262 p., \$4.00. Includes a history of hypnosis, the author's theory explaining it, and recommendations for hypnotic therapy.

**ON BEING INTELLIGENT**—Ashley Montagu—Henry Schuman, 236 p., \$2.95. A distinguished authority tells you how you may order your life better and achieve a greater measure of fulfillment.

**POTTERY AND PORCELAIN: A Guide to Collectors**—Frederick Litchfield—Barrows, 5th ed., 356 p., illus., \$12.50. An entirely revised edition of this beautiful standard work. Information about ceramics from the earliest known times to the 19th century for collectors and students. Many illustrations in color.

**QUANTUM THEORY OF MATTER**—John C. Slater—McGraw-Hill, 528 p., illus., \$7.50. Includes many problems intended to encourage the student to think through the matter so as to understand the principles involved.

**RECREATION AND PARK YEARBOOK, MIDCENTURY EDITION: A Review of Local and County Recreation and Park Developments 1900-1950**—National Recreation Association, 69 p., paper, \$1.50. Statistics of recreation facilities available and their use. Most popular is swimming.

**SELECTION OF HEARING AIDS**—Edith L. R. Corliss—Govt. Printing Office, National Bureau of Standards Circular 516, 17 p., illus., paper, 15 cents. Explaining points to look for so as to select that particular hearing aid best suited to the individual's needs.

**STAMPS: A Handbook for Collectors**—Wilfrid Dellquest—Barrows, 187 p., illus., \$2.00. A reference book to help the collector understand his hobby.

**THE TELEVISION PROGRAM: Its Writing, Direction, and Production**—Edward Stasheff and Rudy Bretz—A. A. Wyn, 355 p., illus., \$4.95. Many television programs, it is pointed out, are really transmitted shows which might be presented in other media, just as the first automobiles were buggies with motors. It remains for television to develop its own techniques.

**TRADE BARRIERS TO KNOWLEDGE: A Manual of Regulations Affecting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials**—UNESCO (Columbia University Press), 167 p., paper, \$1.00. Data on the restrictions placed by various countries on the import and export of cultural

material. Attempts are being made by UNESCO to get the nations concerned to remove such barriers to the exchange of knowledge.

**YOUNG GERMANY: Apprentice to Democracy**—Department of State—Govt. Printing Office, State publication 4251, 78 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. The young of the Federal German Republic are "a reassuring as well as an engaging sight," but they have many urgent needs and problems.

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## GEOLOGY

### Beryl Discovered in Clay Deposits Near Delhi

► **DEPOSITS OF** the semi-precious stone beryl, ore of beryllium metal useful in atomic energy work, were discovered in recent months near Delhi City by K. L. Bhola, mining geologist of India's Atomic Energy Commission.

Workable but of small extent, the deposits are contained in decomposed feldspar that for some decades has been quarried for pottery clays and kaolin for ceramics factories. Considerable quantities of beryl may have been lost in past years through lack of realization of its identity and value.

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## ENTOMOLOGY

### "Praying" Mantis Takes Attitude to Prey and Fight

► **THE "PRAYING"** mantis (or mantid) is preylful not prayerful. For its size it is one of the most predatory animals in existence, Dr. Ashley B. Gurney, entomologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, states in the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution.

The prayerlike pose of this near relative of the cockroach is its normal position both for seizing prey and for defending itself. Front legs of the mantis bear sharp spines and fold somewhat as if they were hinged, thus enabling the insect to reach forward, seize its prey and bring it to its mouth. The mantis feeds entirely on other animals, chiefly insects caught alive.

They have enormous appetites—an adult mantis has been known to eat ten cockroaches in less than three hours, Dr. Gurney states. Although there are more than 1,500 species of mantids in the world, most of them are found in the tropics, he says, only 19 being known in the United States.

Mantids have developed considerable camouflage. They appear to resemble flowers, other insects and large ants, assuming colors that vary from white or pale pink to brilliant blue in order to blend into the background.

For the most part, Dr. Gurney points out, mantids are beneficial insects, because their prey is mostly other insects injurious to gardens. They are not poisonous.

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