

THE RADIO AMATEUR'S HANDBOOK—*American Radio Relay League*, 29th ed., 549 p., illus., paper, \$3.00. A reference book for all in the field from beginning experimenter to advanced amateur, from serviceman to physicist.

THE REPTILES OF OHIO—Roger Conant—*American Midland Naturalist*, 2d ed., 284 p., illus., \$3.50. Revised to bring this study up to date.

RESEARCH CORPORATION 1951 ANNUAL REPORT—*Research Corporation*, 63 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 405 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Reporting how \$875,000 in grants in aid was distributed.

SCHOOL HOUSING FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN—Romaine P. Mackie—*Govt. Printing Office*, Office of Education Bulletin 1951, No. 17, 26 p., illus., paper, 15 cents. Housing for crippled children should be designed to give them a feeling of security—plenty of handrails, ramps, good lighting—no swinging doors, slippery floors, sharp corners.

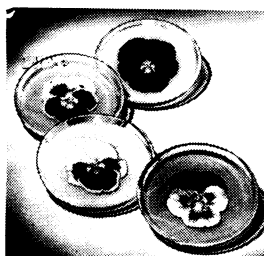
SOME APPLICATIONS OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN PLANT SCIENCE—Atomic Energy Commission—*Govt. Printing Office*, 211 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Reports indicating the harmful effects of radiation on plant growth and also accounts of research with isotopes on plant physiology. This is the same as the eleventh semi-annual report of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

STUDIES OF SLAB AND BEAM HIGHWAY BRIDGES: Part III, Small-Scale Tests of Shear Connectors and Composite T-Beams—Chester P. Siess, Ivan M. Viest, and Nathan M. Newmark—*University of Illinois*, 133 p., illus., paper, \$1.00.

THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA 1952 ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT: Reviewing Important Events and Developments of 1951—J. Morris Jones, Mg. Ed., *Field Enterprises*, 182 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. Reviewing the events of 1952. Specialists in various fields contribute articles.

YOUR PROPERTY—PLAN ITS TRANSFER—J. H. Beuscher and Louise A. Young—*University of Wisconsin*, 16 p., illus., paper, 5 cents. Advice for farm owners on how to provide for disposition of the property in the event of death. Based on Wisconsin laws in effect on Sept. 1, 1951.

Science News Letter, April 5, 1952



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MEDICINE

Bombard Boron in Brain

► SHOOTING SLOW neutrons from an atomic pile into the head of a patient with cancer of the brain who has had a boron isotope administered to him has shown results that "are sufficiently encouraging so that we are pursuing it with all the energy at our command."

This was the statement of Dr. William Sweet, neurosurgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital and assistant professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, Boston, based on his work with 58 brain cancer patients.

Dr. Sweet found that boron 10, an isotope of boron that is not radioactive, will go to brain tumors in three times the amount that it goes to normal brain tissues when it is injected into the blood stream. The possibility then exists, he explained, that if the boron in the head is "shot" with a stream of slow neutrons from an atomic pile, the atoms of boron will "explode" or disintegrate, destroying the brain tumor but not harming the normal part of the brain.

In actual practice so far, Dr. Sweet said, all 58 patients were first operated on to remove most of the brain tumor. The atomic pile was used in an effort to clean up any fragments of the tumor remaining in the

brain. The hope is that boron 10 alone eventually can be used to get rid of the entire tumor.

Dr. Sweet's 58 patients were sent to the Brookhaven National Laboratories of the Atomic Energy Commission, Long Island, N. Y. Here their heads were actually exposed to the stream of slow neutrons from the pile. Dr. Sweet was reluctant to be specific about the results in the 58 cases. He said the pile belonged to Brookhaven and therefore it was the prerogative of scientists there to announce the findings.

Dr. Sweet said that so far "there was no statistically significant clinical evidence" that this treatment is useful. However, he said that the proportion of boron 10 which goes to the brain tumor is "useful."

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Type specimens are to *biology* what the standard inch, pound, etc. are to measurement; they are the first representatives of a species of animal or plant to be described, and all future specimens are compared to them in seeking determinations of species.

The viper is the only poisonous *reptile* found in Britain.

Where Do You Want To Go?

France? Brazil? West Indies? Hawaii? Mexico?

Read what Christian Science Monitor says about a new way to travel that sometimes costs 1/3 to 1/2 less.

By the travel editor of The Christian Science Monitor: Many fascinating travel booklets pass over this desk in the course of a year but the one that arrived the other day so interested this department that it cost the office several hours of work in order that we might absorb its content. The booklet is entitled, "Travel Routes Around the World" and is the traveler's directory to passenger-carrying freighters and liners. In no time at all you find yourself far out to sea cruising along under tropical skies without a care in the world. You find yourself docking at strange ports and taking land tours to those places you long have read about. Most interesting of the vast listings of ships are the freighters which carry a limited number of passengers in quarters comparable to the luxury afforded in the so-called big cruise ships which devote most of their space for passengers.

LARGE ROOMS WITH BEDS

It is important to realize that in most cases today, freighter passengers are considered first-class passengers, although the rates charged are generally on a par with either cabin or tourist class fare. Most passenger-carrying freighters, to quote the booklet, have their private bath and shower, and these cabins offer beds, not bunks. The rooms are generally larger than equivalent accommodations aboard passenger ships, and the cabin of a modern freighter is sometimes even twice as large as first-class cabins on some of the older passenger ships.

This booklet points out that it is frequently astonishing how low freighter fares are as compared with passenger ship fares: for example, less than one-half of the passenger ship fare to California is the amount asked on freighters. On most of the longer runs, the difference in favor of the freighters is regularly from a third to half of the passenger ship fare.

SERVICE AND MEALS RATED EXCELLENT

Foreign ships offer their own specialties, says the booklet. Thus vessels in the East Indian trade serve Rijkstafel (or King's Table), the East Indian dish which can run to as many as 50 different courses. Scandinavian ships serve smorgasbord every day, and some of their desserts (like strawberries smothered in a huge bowl of whipped cream) are never forgotten. Another feature of freighter travel is in its informality. No formal clothes are needed. Sports clothes are enough.

Other valuable information such as how to tip, shipboard activities, and costs are covered in the booklet, "Travel Routes Around the World."

Some of the trips listed include a trip to England for \$160, a 12-day Caribbean cruise for \$240, or a leisurely three-month Mediterranean voyage for \$500.

The booklet is published by Harian Publications, Greenlawn, New York, and may be obtained by sending to the publisher.

So, when it arrives, all you need to do is sit down and take your choice. The booklet lists literally hundreds of ocean trips.

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