

Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review since last week's issue are listed. For convenient purchase of any U. S. book in print, send a remittance to cover retail price (postage will be paid) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951—*Conservation Foundation*, 35 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 30 East 40th St., New York 16, N. Y. Describing the year's activities and current research projects.

ARCTIC COLD FRAMES FOR NORTHERN CLIMATES—Basil M. Bensin—*Bensin*, 5 p., illus., paper, 30 cents. With these instructions you can make your own cold frames with solar reflectors for your Alaskan garden.

ARCTIC GARDEN SOLAR REFLECTORS AND RADIATORS FOR NORTHERN CLIMATES—Basil M. Bensin—*Bensin*, 7 p., illus., paper, 30 cents. Growing vegetables and flowers in Alaska requires making the most of the sun's light and heat. Here are directions for making simple reflectors of inexpensive materials for warming the soil and air around the plants.

ARRANGING FLOWERS FROM THE ROADSIDE, FIELDS, AND WOODS—Amelia Leavitt Hill—*Studio*, 151 p., illus., \$3.85. An attractive book for enthusiasts for this hobby. It includes useful lists of flowers available in the countryside and of "Forbidden Fruit," rare species which you should not pick.

ATLAS OF FRAMBOESIA: A Nomenclature and Clinical Study of the Skin Lesions—Kenneth R. Hill, R. Kodijat and M. Sardadi—*World Health Organization (Columbia University Press)* 18 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Describing in photographs the skin manifestations of framboesia (yaws), thus making clear the meaning of the various names of such conditions.

CARDIOLIPIN ANTIGENS: Preparation and Chemical and Serological Control—Mary C. Pangborn and others—*World Health Organization (Columbia University Press)* 63 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Cardiolipin antigens, used in serological tests for syphilis, are mixtures of sodium cardiolipin with purified lecithin and usually also with cholesterol.

COAL DUST FOR ALASKAN GARDENS—Basil M. Bensin—*Bensin*, 9 p., illus., paper, 30 cents. The coal dust serves to remove snow and warm the soil by absorbing the rays of the sun.

THE EXECUTIVE AND HEALTH: Transactions of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting—*Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America*, 89 p., illus., paper, \$1.50. Discussing measures which would keep men in key positions healthy. Suggesting "Well Adult Clinics" and periodic examinations.

FLORIDA BIRD SONGS—P. P. Kellogg and A. A. Allen—*Comstock*, 1 disk, 10 in., 78 r.p.m., \$2.50. Made for the Brand Bird Song Foundation by aiming a sensitive microphone at the birds, collecting the sound waves by a parabolic reflector and recording them on magnetic tape. Calls of five familiar and five rare birds, including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker are so recorded.

FOLIC ACID CONTENT OF FOODS: Microbiological Assay by Standardized Methods and Compilation of Data From Literature—Edward W.

Toepfer, Elizabeth Gates Zook, Martha Louise Orr, and L. R. Richardson—*Govt. Printing Office*, Agriculture Handbook No. 29, 116 p., paper, 45 cents. Giving the folic acid content of 160 familiar foods. Best sources include: Brewer's yeast, liver, asparagus, endive, broccoli, lettuce and spinach.

FORGING AND FORMING METALS—S. E. Rusinoff—*American Technical Society*, 279 p., illus., \$3.95. To give employees in the metal industry better know-how.

MECHANICS OF FLUIDS—Glenn Murphy—*International Textbook Company*, 2d ed., 309 p., illus., \$6.00. The book includes a series of laboratory and design problems and puts the emphasis on principles governing behavior of fluids at rest and in motion.

MILITARY MEDICAL MANUAL—*Military Service Publishing Company*, 7th ed., 761 p., illus., \$5.75. Not an official volume but one prepared by military authors for the use of officers and enlisted men of the Army Medical Services.

PESTICIDE HANDBOOK 1952—Donald E. H. Frear, Ed.—*College Science Publishers*, 4th ed., 176 p., paper, \$1.25. Cloth, \$3.00. A directory listing over 4,400 trade-named pesticides.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS—Edward LeRoy Long, Jr.—*Westminster Press*, 168 p., \$3.00. A Presbyterian minister infers from the writings of contemporary scientists what their religious beliefs are.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF GEOLOGIC TIME 1950-1951—John Putnam Marble, Chairman—*National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council*, 140 p., paper, \$1.00.

TIDAL DATUM PLANES—H. A. Marmer—*Govt. Printing Office*, C. and G. Survey Special Publication No. 135, rev. ed., 142 p., illus., paper, 60 cents. Planes of reference for elevations, based on the rise and fall of the tide, have the advantage of certainty of recovery even though all bench-mark connection be lost. Prepared as a manual for C. and G. Survey.

Science News Letter, May 3, 1952

INVENTION

No More Street Car Poles With New Invention

► TROLLEY WIRES and poles may become a thing of the past if a Swiss invention is generally adopted. An electric vehicle which can pick up and store electrical energy received patent 2,589,453 from the U. S. Patent Office.

The motor, invented by Bjarne Storsand of Zurich, has a fly wheel that weighs about 10% of the total weight of the vehicle.

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● RADIO

Saturday, May 10, 1952, 3:15-3:30 p.m. EDT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Winners of the Third National Science Fair will be interviewed and prizes awarded from the Exhibition Hall, U. S. National Museum in Washington, D. C.

TECHNOLOGY

Woodpecker "Ring" for Front Line Voice Phone

► A TELEPHONE that imitates a woodpecker when it "rings" has just been approved for production, the U. S. Army Signal Corps announced in Fort Monmouth, N. J.

The woodpecker device can be adjusted in volume to prevent giving away the positions of front-line soldiers. The pecking noise, however, can be heard more easily and about twice as far in battle noise, the Army reported.

Sensitive enough so that it can detect the softest whisper, yet rugged enough to withstand the powerful shock waves of heavy artillery, the waterproof phone normally works on two flashlight cells. It will transmit messages up to five miles without any source of power other than the speaker's voice.

The size of a loaf of bread, the field telephone weighs about eight and a half pounds, works in temperatures from 130 to minus 63 degrees Fahrenheit, and can be hooked into central office systems.

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MEDICINE

Muscle Weakness Treated With Soapless Soap Relative

► A NEW approach to treatment of the muscle weakness disease, myasthenia gravis, is promised by a chemical related to the synthetic detergents, or soapless soaps, and named Tensilon, or, chemically, 3-hydroxyphenyl dimethylethylammonium chloride.

Tensilon injected into the veins of patients with myasthenia gives a prompt though not lasting increase in strength, Drs. Martha R. Westerberg, Kenneth R. Magee and Frederick E. Shideman of Ann Arbor, Mich., reported to the American Academy of Neurology in Louisville, Ky.

Even patients already on treatment with neostigmine or other medicine for myasthenia gain extra if transitory strength from the Tensilon injection.

The effect of the drug is a direct stimulation at the nerve-muscle junction and is not related to any anticholinesterase activity. For this reason, the Michigan doctors consider it holds promise of a new approach in both treatment and study of the disease.

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