

# 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.

**THE AMERICAN FAMILY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**—John Sirjamaki—*Harvard University Press*, 227 p., \$4.25. Results of scholarly investigations of the American family are here brought together for the general reader.

**ANIMAL BIOCHROMES AND STRUCTURAL COLOURS: Physical, Chemical, Distributional and Physiological Features of Coloured Bodies in the Animal World**—Denis L. Fox—*Cambridge University Press*, 379 p., illus., \$11.00. Telling of the strange and beautiful colors in animal life and their importance in comparative physiology.

**AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL CUSTOM: A Forgotten Factor in the Founding**—Burleigh Cushing Rodick—*Philosophical Library*, 244 p., \$4.75. Looking into the motives behind the founding of our nation.

**ATOMIC POWER DEVELOPMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE: Hearings before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Congress of the United States**—*Govt. Printing Office*, 649 p., paper, \$1.50.

**BLIND WHITE FISH IN PERSIA**—Anthony Smith

—*Dutton*, 256 p., illus., \$3.75. A most readable account of what four young scientists from Oxford found when they toured Persia in a second-hand truck looking for blind white fish that were not there and trying to make friends with a people who thought in ways that were new.

**CONGRESS AND THE CONSTITUTION: Questions and Answers About the Constitution and Government of the United States of America**—Col. Carl Miller—*Exposition Press*, 162 p., \$3.00. Even the well-informed American can learn much about his government from these questions and answers.

**CURRENT BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE ALASKAN ARCTIC**—Ira L. Wiggins, Ed.—*Stanford University Press*, 55 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Reporting on research conducted at the Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, Alaska.

**THE EARTH'S CRUST: A New Approach to Physical Geography and Geology**—L. Dudley Stamp—*Crown*, 120 p., illus., \$5.00. Beautiful colored models show the reader what lies beneath and explains the landscape we all admire.

**THE EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES**—H. C. White—*Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, Bulletin No. 97, 44 p., illus., paper, 45 cents. In many, and perhaps most cases, kingfishers are harmless to the production of desired species of fish and in some cases may be beneficial.

**HAUNTED HOUSE**—*New York State Department of Mental Hygiene*, 14 p., illus., paper, single copies free upon request direct to publisher, Albany, N. Y. A booklet to help people free themselves from all the fears and needless worries that haunt them.

**A HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY FROM THALES TO KEPLER**—J. L. E. Dreyer—*Dover*, 438 p., illus., paper \$1.95, cloth \$3.95. A new edition of a book long out of print in English.

**AN INTRODUCTON TO RELAXATION METHODS**—F. S. Shaw—*Dover*, 396 p., \$5.50. Aid in solving mathematical problems concerned with fluid mechanics, design of electrical networks, stress distribution and other engineering applications.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC**—Suzanne K. Langer—*Dover*, 2d ed., 367 p., paper \$1.60, cloth \$3.50. In logic, as in mathematics, the author explains, the student has often been taught the techniques and operations without an understanding of the concepts that underlie them. This book is intended to fill this gap.

**LIVING WITH A DISABILITY**—Howard A. Rusk and Eugene J. Taylor—*Blakiston*, 207 p., illus., \$4.00. Practical hints for those for whom such simple commonplace tasks as combing the hair or lacing the shoes present difficult problems. Real help for the handicapped.

**THE MAN IN LEATHER BREECHES: The Life and Times of George Fox**—Vernon Noble—*Philosophical Library*, 298 p., illus., \$6.00. The author, known for his talks on books, sought

for the reason why this sturdy character was so revered and so hated by his contemporaries.

**MANAGEMENT IN THE GRAPHIC ARTS: 1952 Conference Proceedings, Summary of 1951 Conference**—*Carnegie Institute of Technology*, 44 p., paper, \$5.00. Of particular interest to those in the printing industry.

**MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AT MID-CENTURY**—John E. Deitrick and Robert C. Berson—*McGraw-Hill*, 380 p., illus., \$4.50. The report of the Survey of Medical Education—an evaluation of the medical school, its leadership, functions, activities and finances.

**NEW HOPE FOR THE RETARDED: Enriching the Lives of Exceptional Children**—Morris P. and Miriam Pollock—*Porter Sargent*, 176 p., illus., \$4.50. A book for teachers of special classes and for parents of slow learners to give them a new understanding of the problem and material with which to work.

**SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN FEMALE**—Alfred C. Kinsey and others—*Saunders*, 842 p., illus., \$8.00. Sure to be widely talked about. (See SNL, Aug. 22, 1953.)

**SHIPS OF OUR NAVY: Carriers, Battleships, Destroyers and Landing Craft**—C. B. Colby—*Coward-McCann*, 48 p., illus., \$1.00. A photograph of each ship with brief textual description. Telling, too, how the U.S. ships are named.

**A SOBER FAITH: Religion and Alcoholics Anonymous**—G. Aiken Taylor—*Macmillan*, 108 p., \$2.00. The author, a minister and not an alcoholic, has made a careful study of the contributions of AA and the lessons it has to offer religion.

**THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS**—Charles A. Lindbergh—*Scribner's*, 562 p., illus., \$5.00. A book which has been 14 years in the writing and recreating for you the excitement of that first nonstop crossing of the Atlantic from New York to Paris.

**STAR EXPLORER**—Hugh S. Rice—*Hayden Planetarium*, Revolving disk, cardboard, 50 cents. A chart showing the location of stars and planets for any hour of any night in the year.

**SUBMARINE: Men and Ships of the U. S. Submarine Fleet**—C. B. Colby—*Coward-McCann*, 48 p., illus., \$1.00. A book of excellent photographs and brief descriptive text.

**THE WAY OF THE WORLD: The Rushton Lec-**

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Packagers of Things of Science

tures for 1952—George H. T. Kimble—*George Grady Press*, 123 p., \$2.50. The author, who is director of the American Geographical Society, attempts to bring the study of man "down to earth" in the hope that it may kindle in his readers "a warmer affection for this best of all possible worlds."

THE WORKS OF ARCHIMEDES: Edited in Modern Notation With Introductory Chapters—T. L. Heath—*Dover*, 326 p., paper \$1.95, cloth \$4.95. A classical work combined into a single volume for the convenience of students.

Science News Letter, September 19, 1953

#### PLANT PATHOLOGY

### Chemical Treatment Stops Oak Wilt Killing

► SUCCESSFUL CHEMICAL treatment of oak wilt, destructive disease of shade and forest trees that is now spreading in many parts of the nation, has been accomplished.

Dr. Paul F. Hoffman of the Illinois Natural History Survey, reported to the American Institute of the Biological Sciences meeting in Madison, Wis., that eight different chemicals give promise of rescuing seedling and sapling oaks from death. In some experiments, three-quarters of the trees recovered and resumed apparently normal growth. The chemicals seem to change the growth processes of the trees and allow them to live despite the presence of the fungus.

Some of the other advances reported to the biological meetings are:

Disease resistance can be introduced into tomato plants from several wild plant "cousins" collected in South America.—Dr. S. P. Doolittle, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The age and geographical origin of the large ice islands floating near the North Pole and used as U. S. air bases will be determined by further study of dead plant materials collected from them.—Dr. Nicholas Polunin of Harvard University.

A perennial plague of thousands of acres of beans, called halo blight, can be stopped and cured by water spray containing small amounts of streptomycin.—Dr. William J. Zaumeyer, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Perch in lakes reform into schools at about dawn and go into deep water for day-time feeding.—J. J. Tibbles, A. D. Hasler and J. R. Villemont of University of Wisconsin.

Greenhouse watering of chrysanthemums, carnations, roses and other flowering plants by automatically-timed mist spray two minutes out of every six speeds their growth.—Robert W. Langhans, Cornell University.

Bluegills eat six times their own weight in a year.—Prof. Shelby Gerking, Indiana University.

Whitefish in Alaskan lakes store up fat for winter months like bears and other mammals.—Prof. Donald E. Wohlschlag, Stanford University.

Science News Letter, September 19, 1953

#### MEDICINE

### Growth Hormone Fails In Poliomyelitis Test

► HOPE THAT growth hormone from the pituitary gland might be helpful in polio died with studies reported at the meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in New Haven.

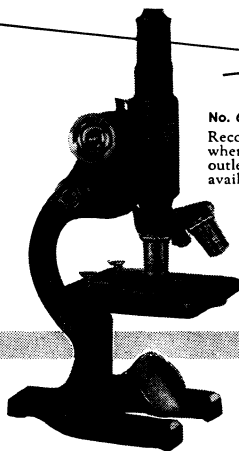
Growth hormone was tested because previous studies had shown that ACTH, pituitary hormone famous as an arthritis remedy, could increase the severity of polio. ACTH and growth hormone are antagonis-

tic in certain respects. So Drs. Kenneth W. Cochran and Thomas Francis Jr. of the University of Michigan School of Public Health decided to see whether growth hormone would antagonize naturally produced ACTH and help relieve the severity of polio.

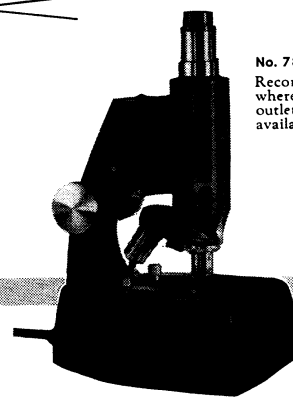
They gave practically pure growth hormone to six monkeys for 12 days. Then these six and six control, untreated monkeys were inoculated with polio virus. All six of the growth-hormone-treated monkeys became paralyzed, and five of the six control monkeys were paralyzed.

Science News Letter, September 19, 1953

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