

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 1953-1954: Comprising the Reports of the President, the Secretary, the Comptroller, and other Administrative Officers—L. A. DuBridge, president — *California Institute of Technology*, 155 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, Pasadena, Calif.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 1953-54—Henry Chauncey, president—*Educational Testing Service*, 135 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 20 Nassau Street, Princeton, N. J. Urging better use of our intellectual resources and stressing the need to uncover high-level scientific talent.

APPLIED GEOPHYSICS: In the Search for Minerals—By the late A. S. Eve and D. A. Keys—*Cambridge University Press*, 4th ed., 382 p., illus., \$7.50. Use of the most modern instruments is described and special attention is given to methods of locating radioactive ores.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL VALUES: An Action Research Study—Arthur W. Foshay, Kenneth D. Wann and associates — *Teachers College, Columbia University*, 323 p., \$3.50. Report of a cooperative study conducted in Springfield, Mo.

CONCISE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN GRAMMAR AND USAGE — Robert C. Whitford and James R. Foster, Eds.—*Philosophical Library*, 168 p., \$4.50. An alphabetical listing of words, the correct use of which is sometimes confusing, and terms representing the basic elements of grammar.

FACTS OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN—Adie Suchsdorf—*Bobbs-Merrill*, 96 p., illus., \$2.75. To help parents in answering the questions of their children, whether they are pre-school youngsters or approaching adulthood. Based on research of the Child Study Association.

FROM CLASSICAL TO MODERN CHEMISTRY: Some Historical Sketches — A. J. Berry — *Cambridge University Press*, 251 p., \$4.75. Although intended for the "serious student," the treatment is nevertheless elementary.

THE HISTORY AND CONQUEST OF COMMON DISEASES—Walter R. Bett, Ed.—*University of Oklahoma Press*, 334 p., \$4.00. A book by prominent medical specialists intended primarily for patients.

THE MATHEMATICAL PRACTITIONERS OF TUDOR AND STUART ENGLAND — E. G. R. Taylor — *Cambridge University Press*, 443 p., illus., \$9.50. Devoted to those lesser men whose work created the climate in which great scientific advances were made possible.

PATHOGENESIS OF CANCER—John E. Gregory — *Fremont*, 2d ed., 202 p., illus., \$7.50. Intended to stimulate the search for a virus cause of cancer and an antibiotic remedy.

PROJECTS IN METAL FOR THE HOME AND SCHOOL SHOP—James F. Lincoln *Arc Welding Foundation*, 79 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Telling the do-it-yourself enthusiast how to make a number of metal articles useful in home and yard.

STANDARD VALUES IN NUTRITION AND METABOLISM: Being the Second Fascicle of a Handbook of Biological Data—Errett C. Albritton, Ed. — *Saunders*, 380 p., illus., paper, \$6.50. Prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Handbook of Biological Data to present more basic established data in biological science.

TV FIELD SERVICE MANUAL WITH TUBE LO-

CATIONS: Volume 3 — Harold Alsberg, Ed. — *Rider*, 121 p., illus., paper, \$2.10. To help the technician in locating and eliminating TV troubles.

TV MANUFACTURERS' RECEIVER TROUBLE CURES: Volume 6 — Milton S. Snitzer, Ed. — *Rider*, 120 p., illus., paper, \$1.80. Here the manufacturers themselves provide the answers to some of the problems that may arise in their sets.

TELEVISION AND RADAR ENCYCLOPAEDIA—W. MacLanachan, Ed. — *Pitman*, 2d ed., 216 p., illus., \$6.00. A reference work explaining both British and American terms and practice.

THOSE OF THE FOREST — Wallace Byron Grange—*Flambeau*, 314 p., illus., \$4.75. Telling of the life of wild creatures.

YOUR CHILDREN'S FEET AND FOOTWEAR — Children's Bureau — *Govt. Printing Office*, 13 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. How to select shoes for children of different ages and how to keep children's feet healthy.

YOUR PREMATURE BABY—Joseph Dancis and Rose Spitz — *Govt. Printing Office*, Children's Bureau Folder Number 40—1954, 13 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. Explaining to parents the special care necessary for babies that weigh less than five pounds at birth.

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HERPETOLOGY

Annual Snakebite Toll

➤ **BETWEEN 30,000 and 40,000 persons** are killed annually throughout the world by snakebite, Dr. S. Swaroop and B. Grab, statisticians of the World Health Organization at Geneva, Switzerland, estimate.

They reported these figures at the first International Conference on Animal Venoms held in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Berkeley, Calif.

The world snakebite death toll figures exclude the USSR, China and Central European countries, in all of which the death rate from this cause is not believed to be high.

The large majority of yearly snakebite deaths, 25,000 to 35,000, occur in countries of southern and southeastern Asia, followed by South America, with 3,000 to 4,000 deaths. In countries of North America, including Mexico, corresponding figures would seem to range between 300 and 500.

In countries of western Europe, annual snakebite deaths may be about 50, and in Oceania only about 10. For the African continent, no statistical basis is available for making even an approximate estimate. The presumption is that the annual total of snakebite deaths ranges between 400 and 1,000.

Of almost 2,500 reptile species known to exist in the world, less than 200 are dan-

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Combination Dust Protects Roses

➤ **ROSES CAN** be protected against injurious insects, mites and diseases all at once with a newly developed combination dust.

Progress on the development of a fungicide-miticicide-insecticide dust, made by U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists, was described to the Entomological Society of America meeting in Houston, Tex. The mixture promises effective control for spider mites, one of the worst rose pests, as well as both the black spot and mildew plant diseases.

The combined bug-disease killing dust includes 3.4% copper oxysulfate, 25% sulfur, the mite-killing Aramite, DDT and lindane. Tests showed that when the mites and black spot were controlled, the roses produced more flowers and foliage.

The dust also proved to be effective in protecting the roses against aphids and potato leafhoppers, but the entire combination was ineffective against the Japanese beetle and flower thrips.

The dust was developed by Dr. Floyd F. Smith and Edgar A. Taylor, entomologists, and W. D. McClellan, plant pathologist, at the Department's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

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gerous to man. These are distributed among the following families and sub-families:

1. *Viperinae*, or true vipers, found only in the Old World.
2. *Crotalidae*, or "pit vipers," found in the New World and in Asia.
3. *Elapidae*, represented by coral snakes and cobras, found in all the continents except Europe.
4. *Colubridae*, to which nearly two-thirds of the known species of snakes belong, but in which the only poisonous ones are some of the rear-fanged reptiles seldom found outside Africa.
5. *Hydrophidae*, or sea snakes, which are said to be so unobtrusive in their habits that they rarely conflict with man. They occur mostly near the coasts of southern Asia and northern Australia. One species has established itself on the west coast of Central America and on the eastern coast of Africa.

The fact that a particular poisonous species lives in a country does not necessarily mean that it is a risk to man, the WHO scientists pointed out. For example, even though the boomslang, or *Dispholidus typhus*, found in Africa has a very active venom, the reptile is timid and disappears into the bushes at the slightest alarm.

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