

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.

ASTRONOMY HANDBOOK—Leon A. Hausman—*Arco*, 142 p., illus., \$2.00. A hard-bound edition of a book published last year. (See SNL, Sept. 22, 1956, p. 188).

THE CHALLENGE OF CHILDREN—Cooperative Parents' Group of Palisades Pre-School Division & Mothers' and Children's Educational Foundation, Inc. with an introductory note by Robert M. Hutchins and foreword by Frank W. Bailey—*Whiteside*, 191 p., \$3.75. Written by parents to aid other parents in bringing up children, with particular reference to emotional development.

COMETS—Herbert S. Zim—*Morrow*, 64 p., illus., \$2.25. Explaining for young people scientific facts about these members of our solar system.

ENGINEERING USES OF RUBBER—A. T. McPherson and Alexander Klemm, Eds.—*Reinhold*, 490 p., illus., \$12.50. For the engineer outside the rubber industry who finds it necessary to employ rubber for applications in other fields.

THE EVALUATION OF AUTONOMIC RESPONSES: TOWARD A GENERAL SOLUTION—John I. Lacey—*New York Academy of Sciences, Annals*, Vol. 67, Art. 5, 40 p., paper, \$1.50. Illustrating the scope and importance of the measurement of autonomic nervous system functions.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS FOR THE EVALUATION OF DRUGS IN VARIOUS DISEASE STATES—Bradford N. Craver, Ed.—*New York Academy of Sciences, Annals*, Vol. 64, Art. 4, 286 p., illus., paper, \$4.00. Concerned with improving the accuracy of predictions of clinical use of drugs from laboratory effects.

HIGHWAY ENGINEERING TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PREPROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: An Analysis—Robley Winfrey and Jack R. Hutchins—*Highway Research Board*, Special Report 24, 20 p., paper, 60 cents.

MAN'S PHYSICAL UNIVERSE: A Survey of Physical Science for Colleges—Arthur Talbot Bawden—*Macmillan*, 4th ed., 822 p., illus., \$6.25. Intended for use in a program of general or liberal education to give the student an overall view of the field and to aid him in determining whether he wishes to specialize in any aspect of the field.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY: In Relation to Problems

YOUR HAIR and Its Care

By Oscar L. Levin, M.D.
and Howard T. Behrman, M.D.

If you want healthy hair, lovely hair, then you need the expert advice in this book.

Two medical specialists have here pooled their knowledge to give you in plain language the up-to-date scientific facts now available about hair. They tell you what to do (and what not!) to save and beautify your hair, stimulate healthier hair growth, and deal with many problems, common and uncommon, as: Dandruff—gray hair—thinning hair—care of the scalp—baldness—abnormal types of hair—excessive oiliness—brittle dryness—hair falling out—infection—parasites—hair hygiene, etc., etc.

Medical science is better equipped today than ever before to prevent trouble above the hair line; or, should some difficulty already have arisen, to deal effectively with it.

"A worthwhile book full of important information."

—Ohio State Medical Journal

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of Genesis, Social and Occupational Consequences, Utilization, Control and Prevention—J. E. Wallace Wallin—*Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 200 p., \$5.00. Emphasizing the fact that society makes its own problems by failing to develop resources for training mental defectives and keeping them out of trouble.

NATURAL RESISTANCE TO INFECTIONS—Walsh McDermott and others—*New York Academy of Sciences, Annals*, Vol. 66, Art. 2, 176 p., illus., paper, \$3.50. Natural resistance to infections is influenced by many factors, some of which are definitely recognizable and capable of measurement, although others have so far evaded precise scientific investigation.

OIL: Today's Black Magic—Walter Bucher—*Morrow*, 96 p., illus., \$2.50. A survey for children of the history, production and uses of this vitally important substance, and what its discovery has meant to us.

OUT OF THE TEST TUBE: The Story of Chemistry—Harry N. Holmes—*Emerson Books*, 5th ed., 313 p., illus., \$4.50. This edition has been completely revised and contains much new material, including sections on atomic power and atom and hydrogen bombs.

PREHISTORIC ANIMALS—Sam and Beryl Epstein—*Franklin Watts*, 210 p., illus., \$3.95. The story of the animals from trilobites to mammals that inhabited the earth before modern man appeared.

MODERN MIRACLES OF THE LABORATORY—Frank Ross, Jr.—*Lothrop, Lee & Shepard*, 224 p., illus., \$3.00. Telling in simple language the great part chemistry has played in man's relationship to the material world around him, from the times of the ancient alchemists to our present-day chemists.

RAUWOLFIA: Botany, Pharmacognosy, Chemistry & Pharmacology—Robert E. Woodson Jr., Heber W. Youngken, Emil Schlittler and Jurg A. Schneider—*Little, Brown*, 149 p., illus., \$5.50. Exploring the scientific and technical aspects of Rauwolfia and its alkaloids.

STAPHYLOCOCCAL INFECTIONS—David E. Rogers, Ed.—*New York Academy of Sciences, Annals*, Vol. 65, Art. 3, 190 p., illus., paper, \$4.50. Papers presented at a conference held February 16 and 17, 1956.

THE SUN—Giorgio Abetti, translated by J. B. Sidgwick—*Macmillan*, 2nd ed., 336 p., illus., \$12.00. Although this book was published in Italy in 1951, Abetti supplied a large number of revisions for this English translation.

TEACHING ASTRONOMY IN SCHOOLS—Ernest Agar Beet—*Cambridge University Press*, 72 p., illus., \$1.50. A small book for teachers on how to teach astronomy in schools below the university level.

TECHNIQUES FOR THE STUDY OF BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF DRUGS—Peter B. Dews and others—*New York Academy of Sciences, Annals*, Vol. 65, Art. 4, 110 p., illus., paper, \$3.00. Report of a conference held in New York May 4, 1956.

UTILIZATION OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERING MANPOWER—C. E. Fritts and others—*Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 134, 101 p., illus., paper, \$2.20. Papers discussing the manpower problem in highway programs throughout the country.

THE WESTERN ELECTRIC ENGINEER: Vol. I, No. 1, January 1957—Michael J. O'Leary, Ed.—*Western Electric Co.*, 49 p., illus., paper, quar-

terly, \$3.00 per year, single copies 75 cents. Containing comprehensive articles on many branches of engineering at Western Electric, the manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell Telephone System.

Science News Letter, January 26, 1957

PUBLIC SAFETY

Landing in a Bed of Roses Could Save Your Life

► A BED OF ROSES and a cushion of concrete might save your life. They are being used as two means of keeping motorists from killing one another or being killed on the nation's highways.

Rose hedges and two-foot concrete pillars are showing promise in cutting head-on collisions, highway experts from New Hampshire and California told other experts at the Highway Research Board meeting in Washington.

Hedges of multiflora rose could prevent many serious accidents if planted in the strip dividing highways, Prof. Russell R. Skelton of the University of New Hampshire reported.

During both summer and winter, tests with a rose hedge averaging ten feet in width and nine feet in height were made.

The New Hampshire scientists smashed test cars into the hedge at speeds from 22 to 50 miles per hour. The tests show that multiflora rose hedges are useful as safety barriers and capable of stopping a vehicle out of control gradually and without injury to the driver or damage to the car.

In California, researchers have found that collapsible barriers of two-foot concrete pillars, planted in the middle of a divided highway can prevent a wild car from colliding head-on with a car in the lane of oncoming traffic.

Tests were made in which a car was driven through a series of the barriers at 17 and 31 miles per hour. They showed the concrete cushions act as energy-absorbers.

An automobile or truck, out of control and commencing to cross into the lane of the oncoming traffic, will break off a number of the barriers and stop.

The report on the concrete life-savers was made by Norman L. Pedersen, John H. Mathewson and Derwyn M. Severy, Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles.

Also at the meeting, Thel R. Black of Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, urged the highway researchers to consider the human element in highway development and use.

"Will our concern for factors of time, speed and economy," Mr. Black asked, "cloud our vision to other social and human needs which highways can help fulfill?"

Mr. Black said that the following have to be considered: the need for relaxation on the highway, the need for simple and personalized road signs, the need for beauty and aesthetic feelings, the need for contact with nature, the need for group experience and the need for national defense.

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