

illus., \$7.50. Includes glossary, scale of sizes and distances, and tables comparing common minerals.

THE PRINCIPLES OF NOISE—J. J. Freeman—Wiley, 299 p., \$9.25. A textbook providing a framework for understanding the principles and techniques used in the analysis of noise.

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE: Education and the Future of America—Panel Report V of the Special Studies Project—Rockefeller Brothers Fund (Doubleday), 49 p., graphs, paper, 75¢. On the ability of a free people to identify, nurture and wisely use its own talents.

SCIENTIFIC GLASSBLOWING—E. L. Wheeler, preface by G. Ross Robertson—Interscience, 478 p., illus., \$9.75. The modern glassblower of special types of glass, fancy fractioning columns, standard taper ware, and numerous high-vacuum devices, has become the research chemist's co-worker.

SUMMARY OF ADDRESSES, DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Proceedings of Southern Regional Conference on Aging, 1958—Council of State Governments, 84 p., paper, \$1.50. Evaluations of a working conference of state officials.

TABLE OF RADIOISOTOPES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO HALF-LIFE—compiled by Elaine Daniels—Brookhaven Nat'l Lab. (Office of Technical Services), 58 p., paper, \$1.75. Data taken from the General Electric Chart of the Nuclides, 5th ed.

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE: A Book of Methods—Paul F. Brandwein, Fletcher G. Watson and Paul E. Blackwood—Harcourt, 568 p., illus., \$6.50. Seeks to help the science teacher in the varied situations in which he may find himself.

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE: A Sourcebook for the Biological Sciences—Evelyn Morholt, Paul F. Brandwein and Alexander Joseph—Harcourt, 506 p., illus., \$6.75. Incorporates tested teaching procedures of high school students, of different levels of ability, in general science, biology and health science.

TELEVISION IN SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY—V. K. Zworykin, E. G. Ramberg and L. E. Flory—Wiley, 300 p., illus., \$10. Explores the function of television as an extension of human sight, variously called closed circuit or industrial television.

WHAT DINOSAUR IS IT?—Anna Pistorius—Follett, 29 p., illus., with paintings by the author, \$2.25. For young children, contains pronunciation guide.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1958

METEOROLOGY

Science Foundation to Begin Atmospheric Study

► **THE NATIONAL Science Foundation** is going to do something about the weather.

The Foundation revealed that it is establishing a Program for Atmospheric Sciences under the direction of Dr. Earl G. Droessler. The Program is an outgrowth of recommendations by the President's Committee on Weather Control and the Committee on Meteorology of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.

In addition to the "more conventional type of meteorological research," the Program will also be concerned with energy transfer processes between earth, sea and air; turbulent flow of gaseous fluids; heat exchange processes; upper atmosphere studies; atmospheric chemistry; and general circulation problems of the atmosphere and oceans.

Attention will also be given to the field of cloud physics, especially the physics of precipitation, about which the Foundation says, "much basic research must be pursued before the possibilities of controlling or modifying weather can be evaluated."

Dr. Droessler was formerly with the Office of Science, Department of Defense.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1958

ASTRONOMY

Halley's Comet First Recorded by Chinese

► **CHINESE** astronomers spotted Halley's comet in 66 A. D.

This is the first recorded report of the comet, which comes close to the earth every 75 years. The information that Chinese astronomers spotted the comet nearly two millenia ago, and again in 684 and 837 A.D., is contained in a compendium and translation of ancient Chinese astronomical observations by Dr. Hsi Tze-tsung of the Academia Sinica of Peking. The compendium has been published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Following the Chinese observations, the next recording was made in Europe in 1305. The recurrent comet was last seen in 1910, at which time, the Institution says, it caused "predictions that its tail might lash to earth, perhaps bring an end to all life."

Science News Letter, July 19, 1958

MEDICINE

Thirsty Mice Drink Themselves to Death

► **A SPECIAL** strain of experimental mice that drink themselves to death has been discovered.

Both sexes of a STR/N strain of mice indulge in heavy water drinking. The females, however, seem to be able to handle their water better than the males who drink themselves to death, research scientists at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda, Md., have reported.

The thirsty mice were originally obtained for arthritis research but soon became the subjects of a research project in themselves when it was noticed that large quantities of water were disappearing from their

cages. Some of the mice were gulping down as much as five times their body weight in water every day.

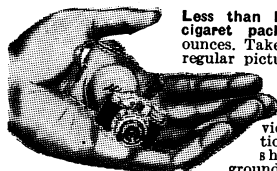
Within 16 months, 88% of the males developed hydronephrosis, a condition in which the bladder and kidneys become bloated with urine and the animals die.

Pathological studies showed the males developed a mass in the urethra which plugged the flow path of urine. The females did not develop this plug and lived their normal life span, apparently unharmed by their abnormal drinking capacity.

It was also found that the thirsty mice could get along without their water supply. When they received no water except the lesser amount needed for their diet, all of them survived. Thus, it appears that the mice do not have to drink, they just like to over-indulge.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1958

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