

Bibber, \$5.95. Written by professional experts, this book is designed to help the rocket enthusiast to acquire the basic principles which underlie rocketry.

SCIENTIFIC RUSSIAN: A Concise Description of the Structural Elements of Scientific and Technical Russian—George E. Condoyannis—Wiley, 225 p., \$3.50. Designed to be used by the scientists or engineer who is beginning to read unsimplified Russian scientific and technical reading matter with the help of a dictionary.

SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM (INTERNATIONAL) ON COMBUSTION at London and Oxford, 1958—The Combustion Institute—Butterworths (*Academic*), 959 p., illus., \$35. Papers on the mechanism of combustion reactions, spectroscopy of flames, ionization of flames, ignition and limits of inflammability, turbulence in flames, and other aspects of combustion.

SOURCE BOOK OF INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS, Vol. III: Monohydric Alcohols—Ibert Mellan—Reinhold, 276 p., \$10. Presents physical properties, azeotropic mixtures and uses of industrial alcohols, methods of manufacture and newer methods of fermentation.

STEROIDS—Louis F. Fieser and Mary Fieser—Reinhold, 950 p., illus., \$18. Replaces the 3rd edition of *Natural Products Related to Phenanthrene*. Scientific monograph presenting the steroid story in a readable fashion, covering the field to about February-March, 1959.

THE STRANGE ORDEAL OF THE NORMANDIER—H. L. Tredree—Little, 231 p., map, \$3.95. Story of the fatal voyage in 1918 of the British tramp ship whose crew contracted black-water fever, written up by its wireless operator.

SUBTROPICAL FRUIT PESTS—Walter Ebeling—Univ. of Calif., *Agric. Pubs.*, 436 p., illus., \$7. Reference work on insects of the subtropics and complete guide to control of insect pests on subtropical fruit crops.

SURVEYING—Harry Bouchard, rev. by Francis H. Moffitt—Int. Textbook, 4th ed., 664 p., illus., \$10.50. Many revisions include chapters on the basic principles of photogrammetry and stereoscopic plotting, and on the uses of the subtense bar, the geodimeter and the tellurimeter.

TEACHER SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, 1957-58 and 1958-59—Research Div., NEA—Nat. Education Assn., 86 p., paper, single copies free upon request direct to publisher, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

THE TECHNOLOGY OF PRINTED CIRCUITS: The Foil Technique in Electronic Production—Paul Eisler—Academic, 405 p., illus., \$12. While briefly surveying other prefabrication techniques, the author concentrates on the method at present most generally used, the production of electronic circuits from insulators surfaced with metal foil.

THEORETICAL ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: Kekule Symposium, organized by the Chemical Society, London, September 1958—International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, P. E. Verkade and others—Butterworths (*Academic*), 298 p., \$9.50. Papers on chemical bonding and structure, nucleophilic reactions, and electrophilic and homolytic reactions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION MANUAL 1959-60—Office of the Federal Register—Govt. Print. Off., rev. ed., 797 p., paper, \$1.50. Reference guide to the three branches of the U.S. government and its special agencies.

WORLD PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE: The Story of a Conference—Douglass Cater—Inst. of International Education, 39 p., illus., paper, single copies free upon request direct to publisher, 1 E. 67th St., New York 21, N.Y. Assessment of the International Educational Exchange program.

THE WORLD'S METROPOLITAN AREAS—International Urban Research Staff, Kingsley Davis,

Dir.—Univ. of Calif. Press, 115 p., \$3. Collection of comparative population statistics, listing the world's metropolitan areas of more than 100,000 inhabitants, classified by continent and country.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

#### CHEMISTRY

### Castor Oil Can Be Used To Make Plastic Foams

CASTOR OIL can be used as a major ingredient in making plastic foams, the Department of Agriculture has reported.

Plastic, or urethane, foams made with castor oil range from spongy to rigid, depending on the amount of the oil or other ingredients used and on the methods of processing.

USDA's research with castor oil and plastic foam is part of a broad study designed to discover economic uses for castor beans. Although most of the 120,000,000 pounds of castor oil used in this country each year is imported, interest in domestic production of castor beans is growing.

A market is already established for castor oil as a raw material in jet-engine and other industrial lubricants, in cosmetics and in medicines.

Science News Letter, August 1, 1959

## Questions

MEDICINE—What is "black cancer"? p. 71.

PALEONTOLOGY—Where was the skull bone, believed to be the oldest yet discovered of the higher primates, found? p. 73.

PUBLIC SAFETY—How long is a lightning stroke? p. 67.

Photographs: Cover, Princeton University; p. 67, New York Shipbuilding Corporation; p. 69, Aluminum Company of America; p. 74, Lederle Laboratories Division, American Cyanamid Company; p. 75, U.S. Army; p. 80, Organ Corporation of America.

## Do You Know

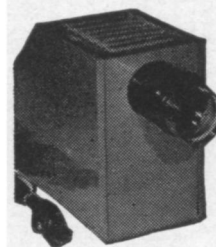
Fleck, a costly disease of tobacco leaves, has been traced to ozone formed by the action of sunlight on automotive exhaust gases and other air pollutants.

Since 1948, over 70 distinct viruses specific to man have been identified with the aid of tissue culture and other new laboratory techniques.

The making of chewing gum in the U. S. in 1958 called for 3,000,000 pounds of glycerides to control moisture content and more than 2,000,000 pounds of flavoring.

It is thought that weather the world over repeats itself every 273 months in warm and cold periods and drought and exceptional rainfall episodes.

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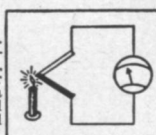
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