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Books of the Week

(Continued from p. 356)

\$3.95. Non-technical introduction to the science of meteorites.

THE STRUCTURE OF MATTER—Francis Owen Rice and Edward Teller—*Science Editions*, 361 p., diagrams, paper, \$1.95. Reprint of 1949 edition, explains the microstructure of matter with the help of quantum mechanics.

TEXTBOOK OF BIOCHEMISTRY—Edward Staunton West and Wilbert R. Todd—*Macmillan*, 3rd ed., 1423 p., illus., \$16.75. Thoroughly revised facts and theories, contains new chapters on metabolism of special tissues and on nucleic acid metabolism.

THIS CROWDED PLANET—Margaret O. Hyde—*Whittlesey House*, 159 p., illus. by Mildred Waltrip, \$3. Explains the complex problems of population pressure to young people.

TIME AND THE PHYSICAL WORLD—Richard Schlegel—*Mich. State Univ. Press*, 211 p., diags., \$7.50. Examines time as an aspect of the natural universe, from cyclical processes and clocks to time and quantum theory.

TOMORROW'S ILLITERATES: The State of Reading Instruction Today—Charles C. Walcutt, Ed., introd. by Jacques Barzun—*Little*, 168 p., \$3.95. Sponsored by the Council for Basic Education, a group of specialists explores the consequences of mistaken theories of reading instruction.

TRAINED AND SCULPTURED PLANTS: A Handbook—Emily L. Brown, Ed.—*Brooklyn Botanic Garden*, 64 p., illus., paper, \$1. Guide to the trimming and training of trees, shrubs and vines.

U. S. GOVERNMENT FILMS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL USE, 1960—Seerly Reid with Katherine W. Clugston and Annie Rose Daugherty—*Off. of Educ. (GPO)*, 502 p., \$2.75. Alphabetical, annotated listing by title and by subject of motion pictures and filmstrips available from all branches of the Federal Government.

WATCHERS AT THE POND—Franklin Russell—*Knopf*, 265 p., illus. by Robert W. Arnold, \$4.50. Naturalist observes the cycle of the seasons in the creatures around a pond.

WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, UNABRIDGED—Philip Babcock Gove, Ed-in-Chief—*Merriam*, 2662 p., illus., \$47.50. Completely new, authoritative and precise definitions of 450,000 generic words in written and spoken English, giving derivations, forms, sounds and meanings. Usefulness is stressed, obsolete words are omitted to make place for such terms as "Van Allen radiation belts" and "Zinjanthropus."

WHAT IVAN KNOWS THAT JOHNNY DOESN'T—Arthur S. Trace, Jr.—*Random House*, 213 p., \$3.95. A comparison of Soviet and American School programs, grade school readers, study of literature, foreign languages, history and geography.

WINTERING OF PLANTS—I. M. Vasil'yev, transl. from Russian by Jacob Levitt, Ed.—*AIBS*, 300 p., illus., \$9. Translation of recent research indicating the aims, concepts and methods of Russian plant scientists.

THE WONDERFUL HUMAN MACHINE — *Am. Medical Assn.*, 56 p., illus., paper, \$1 directly to publisher, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Ill. Simple description of the structure and functioning of the human body.

THE WONDERS OF LIFE ON EARTH—Editor of LIFE and Lincoln Barnett, adapted by Sarel Eimerl—*Golden Press*, 216 p., illus., \$4.95. Special edition for young readers of this colorful review of animal life and evolution.

WRITING GUIDE FOR CHEMISTS—Walter J. Gensler and Kinereth D. Gensler—*McGraw*, 149 p., \$4.50. Practical handbook.

• Science News Letter, 80:356 November 25, 1961

MEDICINE

Childhood Diseases Strike at a Younger Age

➤ CLOSER CONTACTS in modern living, even in rural areas, have resulted in children contracting measles, mumps and chickenpox at an earlier age.

A study of health records of 935 boys about 13 to 18 years of age at St. Mark's School, Southboro, Mass., has shown a general decline during the last few decades in susceptible youngsters entering school.

Most important to "get over with" is German measles for which there is no immediately anticipated vaccine as in the case of ordinary measles. This is especially dangerous during pregnancy when it can be harmful to the unborn child.

Drs. Frank L. Babbott, Bruce M. Rodenberger and Theodore H. Ingalls of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, report the study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 178:542, 1961.

• Science News Letter, 80:358 November 25, 1961

MEDICINE

Aging Symptoms May Cause Deficient Thyroid

➤ AGING PATIENTS who appear senile may be suffering from deficient production of thyroid hormone (hypothyroidism).

In a study of 58 cases of hypothyroidism at the Oldham and District General Hospital, Oldham, Lancashire, England, researchers point out that results of treatment with a thyroid extract were good, although caution had to be taken in treating those with heart abnormalities.

The general practitioners who referred the aging patients to the hospital did not suspect thyroid deficiency in 90% of the cases. Most were sent as examples of heart failure, cerebral thrombosis, anemia or bronchitis, with a few labeled simply as "senile."

Treatment with L-thyroxine, a thyroid extract, might possibly have reduced or even prevented hardening of the arteries which afflicted many of the patients.

However, treatment should be carried out in a hospital or under the care of a medical attendant, Drs. W. H. Lloyd and I. J. L. Goldberg, now at the University College of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, report in the *British Medical Journal* Nov. 11, 1961.

• Science News Letter, 80:358 November 25, 1961

Questions

ASTRONOMY—How close did the comet Seki come to earth? p. 351.

METEOROLOGY—How many typhoons were tracked by Tiros in the Pacific? p. 347.

Photographs: Cover and p. 347, Committee of Stainless Steel Producers; p. 349, University of Pennsylvania; p. 351, Bell Aerosystems Company; p. 360, Kingsway, Inc.