

Books of the Week

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THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, Vol. XX, No. 86, Nov. 1963—J. M. Robertson, Ed.—Brit. Assn. for the Advancement of Science, 378 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. This issue of bi-monthly contains articles on the unity of ecology, British National Parks, high-voltage insulation, and on the cerebral localization of psychophysical function.

ADVANCES IN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS, Vol. 2—Zdenek Kopal, Ed.—Academic Press, 314 p., illus. \$11.50. Presents current studies on the twilight zone of Venus, on cataclysmic variables as binary stars, white dwarfs, and Magellanic Clouds.

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE BOOK OF NATURAL WONDERS—Peter Mathiessen and others, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Ed.—Am. Heritage Pub. Co. (Simon & Schuster), 384 p., illus., maps, \$16.50. An illustrated history of the various land regions of the U.S., from the Atlantic Coast, the Eastern forests, Great Lakes, and the prairie, to desert, mountains and the Pacific Coast.

AUTOMATION AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: A Survey Sponsored by The Council on Library Resources, Inc.—Gilbert W. King, Chmn.—Library of Congress (GPO), 88 p., \$2. See story on p. 89.

BUILD THE UNKNOWN: How Scientists Create the Materials of Tomorrow for the Designs of Today—Irwin Stambler—Norton, 191 p., photographs, \$3.50. Highlights for young people of recent developments in materials engineering.

CITIZENS BAND RADIO HANDBOOK—David E. Hicks—Sams, rev. ed., 192 p., illus., paper, \$2.95. Tells how to select, install, operate, maintain and adjust all types of CB equipment.

COLLECTING ROCKS, MINERALS, GEMS AND FOSSILS—Russell P. MacFall—Popular Mechanics (Hawthorn Bks.), 156 p., photographs, \$3.95. Provides young adult with enough scientific background to become an intelligent collector.

COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY, Vol. II, Part 1: Invertebrate Hormones. Part 2: Tissue Hor-

mones—U. S. von Euler and H. Heller, Eds.—Academic Press, 282 p., illus., \$12. Offers systematic and comprehensive account on the comparative aspects of kinins, heparin, neurohormones and histamine.

COMPUTATIONAL METHODS OF LINEAR ALGEBRA—D. K. Faddeev and V. N. Faddeeva, transl. from Russian by Robert C. Williams—Freeman, 621 p., \$11.50. An exposition of computational methods for the solution of a system of linear equations, the inversion of a matrix, and the complete and special eigenvalue problem.

THE EARTH SCIENCES: Problems and Progress in Current Research—Sydney P. Clark Jr. and others—Univ. of Chicago Press, 195 p., illus., \$6. Lectures delivered on the occasion of Rice University's fiftieth anniversary, on variation of density in the earth, statistical inference in geology, and on biologic problems relating to the composition of sediments.

THE FORD FOUNDATION: Annual Report, October 1, 1962 to September 30, 1963—Henry T. Heald, Pres.—Ford Foundation, 178 p., photographs, single copies free upon request direct to publisher, 477 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. Program reviews and financial statements on a total of \$218.3 million worth of grants.

GYRO FUNDAMENTALS: A Programed Text—Training Systems, Inc. and Stanley L. Levine—Rider, J. F., 117 p., illus., paper, \$2.65. Can be used as a self-tutor in the basic operations of gyroscopes, designed for those who have not had any previous knowledge.

HANDBOOK OF PREPARATIVE INORGANIC CHEMISTRY, Vol. 1—Georg Brauer, Ed., transl. by Scripta Technica; Reed F. Riley, Ed.—Academic Press, 2nd ed., 1,002 p., illus., \$36. Brings together in a single unit methods for the preparation of hundreds of compounds, many of which are familiar only to inorganic chemists working in the field.

A HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY, Vol. 10 of The New Illustrated Library of Science and Invention—Charles-Albert Reichen—Hawthorn Bks., 112 p., designed by Erik Nitsche, 153 illus., \$5.95. The story of a science evolving, from early bronzes and mystical alchemy to the unraveling of molecular reactions, with many unusual illustrations from European museums.

LIGHT AND SIGHT—Charles Gramet—Abelard-Schuman, 160 p., illus. by Leslie Haywood, photographs, \$3.75. A book for young people at the intermediate level tells how we see things, the role of light in our lives and how science has enlarged our range of vision.

THE MAX SCHLING BOOK OF INDOOR GARDENING—Dorothy Brandon and Alfred F. Scheider—Obolensky, 315 p., photographs by Walter Singer, illus. by R. Bornschlegel, \$6.50. Practical information on more than 100 specimens suitable as houseplants.

PLANT VIRUSES AND VIRUS DISEASES—F. C. Bawden—Ronald, 4th ed., 361 p., illus., \$8.75. Covers the structure and composition of the viruses, their effects on host plants, the ways in which they are transmitted and the methods used to control virus diseases in crops.

PORTRAITS OF NOBEL LAUREATES IN MEDICINE AND PHYSIOLOGY—Sarah R. Riedman and Elton T. Gustafson—Abelard-Schuman, 343 p., illus., \$4.95. A collection of short biographies grouped by specialty—infection, drugs, vaccines, nerves—presents the history of breakthroughs in each section through the lives of the great innovators in each field. Includes portraits and chronology of Nobelists.

FREE CATALOGUES OF SCIENCE BOOKS

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IT'S NEW, 5910 Little Pine, Rochester, Michigan

TECHNIQUES IN ENDOCRINE RESEARCH—Peter Eckstein and Francis Knowles, Eds.—Academic Press 319 p., illus., \$11. Proceedings of a NATO Advanced Study Institute, restating the basic problems of endocrinology and evaluating recently developed techniques applied in endocrine research.

TRANSISTOR CIRCUITS FOR MAGNETIC RECORDING—N. M. Haynes—Sams, 384 p., illus., \$9.95. The major sections deal with transistors, magnetic recording elements, sectional circuitry and system circuitry.

TREDGOLD'S TEXTBOOK OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY (Subnormality)—R. F. Tredgold and K. Soddy with E. W. Dunkley and others—Williams & Wilkins, 10th ed., 530 p., photographs, \$12.50. Thoroughly revised standard textbook incorporating new material based on biochemical and genetic research and new concepts of the development of the normal mind and its deviations.

WINGS OF NEPTUNE: The Story of Naval Aviation—Captain Donald Macintyre, R.N.—Norton, 269 p., photographs, maps, \$4.50. A narrative of military history concentrating on the role of naval aviation in the two World Wars.

THE WORLD ALMANAC 1964 and Book of Facts—Harry Hansen, Ed.—N. Y. World Telegram (Doubleday), 79th ed., 896 p., \$2.50. Important events of 1963, chronology, U.S. Federal, State and City officials, statistical data and world facts.

THE WORLD OF LEARNING, 1963-64—Europa Publications, 14th ed., 1,424 p., \$23.50. Directory of the world's universities, colleges, learned societies, libraries, museums and research institutions listed by country, with a section on Unesco and other international scientific and cultural organizations.

• Science News Letter, 85:92 Feb. 8, 1964

Nature Note

Barnacle

➤ ONE OF NATURE'S most misunderstood marine creatures is the barnacle, a familiar sight on any waterfront. Although this tiny adventurer belongs to the same class as lobsters, crabs and shrimp, biologists only credited it as a true crustacean little more than a century ago.

In the Middle Ages, barnacles were thought to be the eggs from which originated the barnack or barnacle goose, *Branta leucopsis*, a winter visitor to Britain. Later this misconception was exchanged for the idea that the barnacle was a mollusk, like snails, clams, oysters, octopuses and squids.

When the young barnacles hatch, they are in a free-swimming form. But soon they attach themselves to any firm object by means of a cement gland at the base of the antennae and secrete a shell around themselves. A barnacle goes through life, in Huxley's descriptive phrase, "fixed by its head and kicking the food into its mouth with its legs."

Rocks, ship bottoms, wharves and living creatures such as whales may provide a home for the barnacle. As many as 300 tons of barnacles can sometimes accumulate on the bottom of a large ship, slowing it. In some areas of the world, the barnacle is considered a gourmet delicacy and in other areas, certain species are used for fertilizer.

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