

Books of the Week

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ADVANCES IN DRUG RESEARCH, Vol. 1—N. J. Harper and Alma B. Simmonds, Eds.—Academic Press, 209 p., diagrams, \$6.25. Among other research, presents significant current progress in penicillins and related structures.

ALL ABOUT BIOLOGY—Bernard Glemser—Random House, 140 p., photographs, illus. by Eva Cellini, \$1.95. Tells young readers about the beginnings of life, some great discoveries in biology, and single- and multi-cell animals.

ANIMALS AS SOCIAL BEINGS—Adolf Portmann, transl. from German by Oliver Coburn—Harper, 246 p., illus., paper, \$1.85. Reprint (1961), on basic phenomena of the social behavior of animals.

ANTARCTIC SNOW AND ICE STUDIES—Malcolm Mellor, Ed.—Am. Geophysical Union, 277 p., illus., \$12. Volume 2 of Antarctic Research Studies, a collection of original papers on glaciology, snow accumulation and densification, drainage systems, and firn cores.

THE ARCHEOLOGY OF CAPE DENBIGH—J. L. Giddings—Brown Univ. Press, 331 p., 73 plates, \$12.50. Detailed report on the field work and excavations of early Eskimo artifacts of flaked stone on the northern Bering Sea coast of Alaska.

BED DISABILITY AMONG THE CHRONICALLY LIMITED, United States, July 1957 to June 1961—PHS (GPO), 62 p., paper, 45¢. Statistics on the average annual number of days of bed disability for all persons with detailed tables by categories.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: 1926-1964—Henry Field—Field Research Projects, 112 p., paper, \$3. Presents list of 594 titles covering researches on the anthropogeography of southwestern Asia, and annotated list of documents microfilmed.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS AND WEEDS—Paul DeBach, Ed. with Evert I. Schlinger—Reinhold, 844 p., illus., \$22.50. Authoritative handbook written by specialists, organized in logical sequence to cover historical development, the ecological basis of biological control, systematics, introduction and colonization programs, conservation of natural enemies, insect pathology, and biological weed control.

DELIGHTS OF THE SLIDE RULE—Clyde B. Clason—Crowell, 246 p., illus., \$5. Describes ways for using the slide rule for entertainment and mind-stretching.

THE ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE OF MOLECULES: A New Approach—J. W. Linnett—Wiley, 187 p., diagrams, \$4.75. Describes the basic content of the hypothesis that electrons in a molecule should be treated as two sets with opposite spins, and applies the hypothesis to particular molecules.

ELECTROSPARK MACHINING OF METALS, Vol. 2—B. R. Lazarenko, Ed., transl. from Russian—Consultants, 195 p., illus., paper, \$22.50. Collection of research papers on the application of the electroerosion method to various manufacturing processes and operations.

ETHICS AND SCIENCE—Henry Margenau—Van Nostrand, 302 p., \$7.50. Rejecting the concept of relativism in ethics, the author concerns himself with ways in which ethical rules can be made objective and valid for all. (See story on p. 287.)

EVOLUTION IN ACTION—Julian Huxley—New Am. Lib., 141 p., photographs, paper, 60¢. Reprint (1953), views evolution as a process affecting nature and man.

FACE OF NORTH AMERICA: The Natural History of a Continent—Peter Farb, introd. by Stewart L. Udall—Harper, 254 p., photographs, illus. by Bob Hines and Jerome Connally, \$3.95. Young reader's edition of handsome book about our continent and the processes of nature.

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS—Albert Wilansky—Blaisdell Pub. Co., 291 p., \$9.50. Written to serve as a senior or beginning graduate text, includes 2000 problems for independent study.

GIVE AND TAKE: The Development of Tissue Transplantation—Francis D. Moore—Doubleday, 182 p., illus., \$5.50. Tells the story, with scientific detail and individual case histories, of the successful transplantation of healthy human kidneys in people dying of kidney failure.

THE GOOD BEASTS: Memories, Mostly Fond, of Animals Wild and Tame—John T. Rowland—Norton, 254 p., illus. by Joseph Cellini, \$4.95. Affectionate memoirs about life with animals.

GREATER DEAD THAN ALIVE—Curtis D. MacDougall—Public Affairs Press, 263 p., \$4.50. Concerned with the posthumous recognition of creative men in all fields of human endeavor, including science and invention.

GULL NUMBER 737—Jean Craighead George—Crowell, 198 p., illus., \$3.50. Story about a boy getting acquainted with research in ornithology.

HANDBOOK OF CONSUMER MOTIVATIONS: The Psychology of the World of Objects—Ernest Dichter—McGraw, 486 p., illus. by Robert Glaisek, \$10. Written for the communications specialist, the book is organized into aspects of human motivations as they apply to consumers of all kinds of products and services.

ASTRONOMY

For Everyone

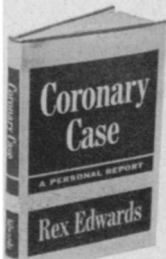
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CORONARY CASE

A Personal Report

By Rex Edwards



The author describes his battle and victory over "the biggest single killer in the U.S. today"—coronary disease. The pressure of a busy life as a film and television writer brought on a severe coronary attack when he was forty-five and it was not until eight months later that the author was able to resume all his activities. He writes of his illness and recovery and tells what he learned about preventing first attacks and recurrent attacks.

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METHODS OF REAL ANALYSIS—Richard R. Goldberg—Blaisdell Pub. Co., 359 p., \$9.50. Text on elementary theory of functions of a real variable, contains material on sequences, series and the foundations of calculus.

NATURALIST-EXPLORERS—Wyatt Blassingame—Watts, F., 145 p., illus. by Fred Sweney, \$3.95. Tells young people about the contributions and lives of such men as Linnaeus, Darwin, von Humboldt and Muir.

OCEANOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERING—Robert L. Wiegel—Prentice-Hall, 532 p., illus., \$18. Deals with the applications of physical oceanography to civil engineering, such as wave force effects on structures, mooring line stresses, harbor oscillations, and ocean mixing processes.

OPTICS: The Nature and Applications of Light—Irvin D. Gluck—Holt, 154 p., illus., \$2.50; paper, \$1.28. Addressing itself to students, amateur astronomers and camera fans, the book covers the optics of such new developments as lasers, radiotelescopes and electron microscopes.

• Science News Letter, 86:284 October 31, 1964

Nature Note

Portuguese Man-of-War

▶ THAT BEAUTIFUL purple balloon sailing serenely over the warm ocean waves is actually a living fortress composed of many tiny but dangerous sea creatures.

Many kinds of polyps, as these soft sea animals are called, are attached on the underside of the iridescent bubble, an ovoid membrane about six inches long with a ridge down the middle.

The individual polyps have assumed specialized tasks on the Portuguese man-of-war, *Physalia pelagica*. Some protect the balloon from enemies, some trap and kill fish, some absorb the food and others are engaged in the task of reproduction.

The defense polyps have long tentacles which can stream out for several feet or retract and coil up like a wire spring. Situated along these tentacles are thousands of nematocysts which contain toxins so strong they can easily paralyze and kill fish of considerable size. Swimmers coming in contact with these stingers can suffer such agony and cramps that they could drown.

Once the tentacles have paralyzed a fish, they contract and recoil, drawing the food up to the base of the float where the clustered nutritive polyps start to engulf and digest the prey. Strange to say, one small fish, the nemeus, has adapted itself to survive the stinging tentacles and often lurks protected among the coiling strands.

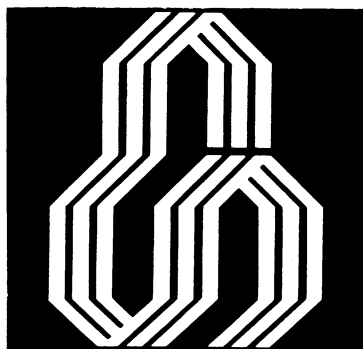
The bright blue, pink and sometimes greenish balloons are driven by the wind, with the masses of colonies underneath acting like a keel as the strange craft sails across tropical and subtropical seas. The balloon, filled with gasses generated by the polyps, can be deflated through a valve on top, and the whole ship can sink, only to rise again as the bubble is filled with gas.

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