

Books of the Week

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ANIMAL EYES—Katherine V. Nespojohn—Prentice-Hall, 71 p., illus. by Haris Petie, \$3.50. Study of various animal eyes, for young readers.

ANTARCTICA MAP—Am. Geographical Soc., large wall map, scale in latitude 71° = 1:5,000,000, paper, \$4. Prepared for the U.S. Antarctic Research Program, this map in stereographic projection includes detailed McMurdo Sound and world ocean maps.

THE APPALACHIANS—Maurice Brooks; Roger Tory Peterson and John A. Livingston, Eds.—Houghton Mifflin, 346 p., photographs, illus. by Lois and Louis Darling, maps, \$8.95. First volume in a new series, tells of the wildlife, plants and geology of the mountain region that stretches from the Gaspe to Georgia.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW YORK STATE—William A. Ritchie—Natural Hist. Press (Doubleday), 355 p., photographs, maps, \$12.50. An integrated account of the traces of cultural sequence in New York State, from Paleo-Indian hunters (c. 7000 B.C.) through Archaic period of hunting, fishing and gathering stage, to woodland, agriculture and Indian village developments.

AVIAN PHYSIOLOGY—Paul D. Sturkie—Cornell Univ. Press, 2nd ed., 766 p., illus., \$15. Authoritative one-volume study, revised and expanded, with primary emphasis on domestic fowl, new final chapter deals with the nervous system.

BABY ANIMALS AND THEIR MOTHERS—Eugen Skasa-Weiss—Hill & Wang, 22 p., 64 full-page photographs, \$3.50. A charming book for the young of all ages.

THE BEGINNING KNOWLEDGE BOOK OF BUTTERFLIES—Kathy Sammis—Rutledge Bk. (Macmillan) 48 p., illus. by Paul Lipp, \$1.95. Helps children identify caterpillars, pupae and common butterflies.

BIOLOGY—OR OBLIVION: Lessons from the Ultimate Science—Brian Hocking—Schenkman Pub. Co., 118 p., illus., \$2.95, paper, \$1.25. Deals largely with ideas, issues and principles which the facts of biology suggest, intended to lead to further reading.

COLLECTED WORKS OF K. E. TSOLKOVSKIY, Vol. II: Reactive Flying Machines—A. A. Blagonravov, Ed.-in-Chief; transl. from Russian—NAGSA, 614 p., paper, \$4.50 direct to Clearinghouse F.S.T.I., Springfield, Va. 22151. Discusses aspects

of free space, exploration of the universe with reaction machines and original work on space rockets.

CYBERNETIC MEDICINE—Aldo Masturzo—Thomas, C. C., 142 p., diagrams, \$6.50. Monograph emphasizes the use of computers in diagnosis and therapy.

THE NATURAL WORLD: A Guide to North American Wildlife—Judith Viorst, preface by Watson Davis—Bantam Bks. (Science Service), 190 p., 80 photographs, paper, 75¢. Describes vividly and in relation to their environment many of the plants and animals that enrich the seashores, mountains, plains, deserts and forests of this continent.

THE NEGRO AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Problems and Practices—Herbert R. Northrup and Richard L. Rowan, Eds.—Bureau of Industrial Relations, Univ. of Mich., 411 p., \$8.50. An analysis and synthesis of investigations of the job problems of Negroes, effectiveness of legislative approaches, programs undertaken by companies, union policies, community approaches, urban industrial problems and Negro professional jobs.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WOLF—Mary Adrian—Hastings House, 62 p., illus. by G. Vaughan-Jackson, \$2.95. Portrait of a predator and its important part in maintaining the balance of animal life in the wilderness.

RITUAL OF THE BACABS—Ralph L. Roys, Transl. and Ed.—Univ. Okla. Press, 193 p., photographs, \$5.95. First English translation of a Maya colonial manuscript containing 42 incantations that add to the knowledge of the religion of the Mayas, their conception of the cosmos, and ideas about the origin of life.

SCALES AND WEIGHTS: A Historical Outline—Bruno Kisch—Yale Univ. Press, 297 p., illus., photographs, \$15. A monograph devoted to the history of weighing from the earliest known examples in the millennia before Christ to the modern era.

SCIENTISTS ON SCIENCE: Informal, Informative talks from the David Sarnoff Industry-Science Training Program—Merwin Dembling, preface by General David Sarnoff—Dutton, 160 p., photographs and diagrams, \$3.95. Explains what scientists do in such areas as practical problem solving, solid-state physics, space technology and cryogenics.

SEMICONDUCTOR JUNCTIONS AND DEVICES. Theory to Practice—William B. Burford III and H. Grey Verner—McGraw, 328 p., illus., \$12. Demonstrates in simple terms the link between the basic concepts of solid-state theory and practical aspects of contemporary semiconductor electronics.

EXPLORE THE SKIES!

COLOR MAP OF THE NORTHERN HEAVENS: 30"x34 1/2", shows stars to magnitude 5.1. \$1.50
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SPACE EXPLORATION: Why and How—Edgar M. Cortright—NASA (GPO), 20 p., illus., paper, single copies free upon request direct to Educ. Public, AFEE-1, NASA, Washington, D.C. 20402. Provides answers by showing how space exploration is intimately related to earth exploration.

SPACE MEDICINE IN PROJECT MERCURY—Mae Mills Link—NASA (GPO), 198 p., illus., \$1. A chronological account of the medical support program of the first U.S. space travelers.

SPORTSMAN'S CAMPING GUIDE—Leonard Miracle—Harper, 160 p., illus., \$3.95; paper, \$1.50. A camping book for hunters and fishermen, from trip planning to discussion of bugs and pests.

TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT: Documents and Analysis—Dennis J. Doolin—Hoover Institution, 77 p., \$2.50. Brief sketch of the basic facts of the case, supported by translations of official statements, press releases and monitored broadcasts from Russian, Chinese and Japanese sources.

THE THEORY OF MORALS—M. Timur—Philosophical Lib., 524 p., \$7.50. An exploration of theories of value.

WHAT'S UP IN ARCHITECTURE: A Look at Modern Building—W. G. Rogers—Harcourt, 192 p., photographs, \$3.95. A readable account of 20th century developments, with bibliography.

WINTER'S BIRDS—May Garelick—Scott, W. R. (N.Y.), unpagged, illus. by Clement Hurd, \$3.50. A picture book for young readers.

• Science News Letter, 88:252 October 16, 1965

Nature Note

Red Coral

► THE BEAUTIFUL RED and pink branches of the coral, *corallium*, were once traded to the Chinese and Indians in exchange for emeralds, rubies and pearls.

The famed precious red coral once thickly covered whole areas around the coasts of Spain, Algeria, Tunisia and other parts of Mediterranean waters. Now most of these undersea forests have been smashed or plundered.

For centuries this coral was collected by fishermen dragging bars, nets and rope that entangled and broke off the lovely red branches.

The primitive Gauls and Celts of Europe, before the Roman conquest in the first century B.C., decorated their helmets and war weapons with pieces of coral. The Romans made necklaces, bracelets and other ornaments from the branches, but also prized them for healing power. Today the Italians continue to cut, polish and carve the material into ornaments.

Corals are animals of the sea, belonging to the phylum Coelenterata. The stony tree-shaped skeleton is slowly built up by hundreds of tiny plump creatures with short tentacles called polyps. These animals extract calcium carbonate and other substances from the sea and deposit them as solid limestone to form the walls of small chambers that encase each polyp.

The animals multiply, and as each new polyp buds from the tops of older ones, the colony builds an "apartment house" in the shape of tree-like branches. When alive, the polyps stretch out their soft tentacles from their chambers for food. When the polyps die, the skeleton of coral remains.

Masses of these skeletons have formed large coral reefs and islands in the warm shallow seas of the world. The Pacific atolls are examples of the enormous colonies, and Florida's tip and its keys are partly coral.

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