

CHEMISTRY

Discovery of Bohemium Called All a Mistake

NO super-heavy element bohemia really exists. Announcement made last month, when the supposedly new substance was first reported by Dr. O. Kobic, was premature, now declares the Yugoslavian scientist.

In a recent issue of *Nature*, Dr. Kobic withdraws all claims to the discovery.

The tiny speck of yellow powder obtained from pitchblende, a common source of radioactive material like radium, was not a new element. It was a form of tungsten metal, declares Dr. Kobic, like that found in the small wires inside some electric lights. But the tungsten was in a form not easily identified.

For the month that Dr. Kobic's element bohemia was thought to exist, science had to puzzle over two elements both having atomic number 93. As such they were both heavier than any elements recognized in chemical tables which end with uranium, element 92. The second element 93 was that of Dr. Enrico Fermi, Italian physicist from Rome.

Now the Italian variety of element 93 stands alone. It is radioactive and disintegrates like radium. Substantiation of Dr. Fermi's work is still unreported by other scientists, and until such confirmation the reality of element 93 may be logically questioned.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

FORESTRY

No Crop Shortage in Northwestern Tree Seeds

TREES ARE certainly doing their part to keep the forests green and growing, the U. S. Forest Service reports. Race suicide is not one of their characteristics.

Investigations with seed traps on the Wind River Natural Area in the Columbia National Forest in Washington showed a seedfall of 4,219,950 tree seeds in an acre of virgin timber. The forest was a mixture of Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar and true firs, typical of the Douglas fir type of the Pacific Northwest. The hemlock was the most prolific seeder. Despite the seedfall of more than four million per acre, foresters classed it as a comparatively light seed year.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Page 144

Archaeology

MAYA RESEARCH, VOL. 1, NO. 1.—Edited by Frans Blom—*Alma Egan Hyatt Foundation, N. Y.*, \$5 a year. A brand new quarterly for those interested in the progress of knowledge about the highest civilization of ancient Mexico and Central America. The quarterly opens its covers to the reader, appropriately and impressively, with a stock-taking of the state of Mayan research, by Prof. Tozzer. Passing briefly over what has been achieved, Prof. Tozzer discusses the many absorbing problems that lie ahead. In addition to its longer articles, each issue of the quarterly is to feature a section of notes, in which scholars and students may contribute short first-hand accounts of their discoveries, and problems for discussion.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Astronomy

EXPOSÉS DE L'ASTRONOMIE STELLAIRE—Pt. I, Histoire de l'Astronomie Stellaire Jusqu'à l'Epoque Contemporaine—H. Mineur—57 p., 15 francs; Pt. II, Eléments de Statistique Mathématique Applicables à l'Etude de l'Astronomie Stellaire—H. Mineur—40 p., 12 francs; Pt. III, Photographie Stellaire: Mesure Photographique des Positions et des Magnitudes des Etoiles—H. Mineur—67 p., 18 francs. *Hermann et Cie., Paris.*

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Mathematics

CALCUL SYMBOLIQUE—Pierre Humbert—*Hermann et Cie., Paris*, 31 p., 10 francs.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Anthropology

THE OVIMBUNDU OF ANGOLA—Wilfrid D. Hambly—*Field Museum of Natural History*, 362 p., 84 plates in photogravure, \$2.75. A detailed ethnological study of a people in southeast Africa.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Meteorology

FOG—Alexander McAdie—*Macmillan*—23 p., LII plates, \$2.50. In fourteen pages of type clouds, fog and fog dissipation methods are discussed. The remainder of the book consists of the beautiful pictures of cloud types taken from Professor McAdie's books on clouds. While admitting fog dissipation is at present impractical on a commercial scale, the author believes it will be done. He presents some of the stepping stones on which research of the future should go forward.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Child Psychology

YOUR CHILD IS NORMAL—Grace Adams—*Covici, Friede*, 241 p., \$2. Parents who have been awed by the admonitions of child psychologists into a feeling of doubt regarding their own competency and their child's kinship with his fellows, will find cheer in the very title of this volume. Just as no one ever saw the "average voter," so no one has ever fondled the "normal child" of pencil and paper averages. If your child deviates from the "norm" that is to be expected. Care of the healthy child is discussed in readable fashion.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Science

SOME ENIGMAS OF MODERN SCIENCE—Guy Clinton—*Published by author*, 26 p., cloth, 80c.; paper 60c. One man's view of what's wrong with modern science. The main trouble apparently is that science today has changed the rules of the "game." Now it sets up a hypothesis and holds to it until it is disproved. The author would like to go back to the older scheme of maintaining that a postulate fails unless supported by positive evidence.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Engineering

POWER SUPPLY ECONOMICS—Joel D. Justin and William G. Mervine—*Wiley*, 276 p., \$3.50.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Occupations

NEW CAREERS FOR YOUTH—Walter B. Pitkin—*Simon and Schuster*, 236 p., \$1.50. Highly inspirational, this will undoubtedly be useful to some young people now looking for jobs. On Mr. Pitkin's hopeful fields list are: the new housing, air conditioning, quality goods and service, retailing, personnel workers, applied psychology, vocational guidance, banking, hotels, cost accounting, appraisers, and several others. He also gives advice on how to make your own job and he lists what he considers overcrowded fields.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Engineering

DIESEL HANDBOOK—Julius Rosbloom—*Clement V. Ritter*, 352 p., \$5.00. A practical book of instruction for engineers and students on modern Diesel engineering, land, marine, locomotive, aero, automotive and portable installations.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

● First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Page 143

Astronomy

HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS—Hubert J. Bernhard, ed.—*American Museum of Natural History*, 54 p., 50c. With its active members consisting of boys and girls of high school age and with the guidance of the departments of education and astronomy of the museum, the Junior Astronomy Club which produced this booklet is a striking development. Briefly and simply the essential facts that interest amateurs are told in this handbook, written by the boys and girls themselves. Such publications and such clubs are important media for the understanding of science by the public.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Meteorology

DAYTIME RADIATION AT BLUE HILL OBSERVATORY IN 1933, WITH APPLICATION TO TURBIDITY IN AMERICAN AIR MASSES—Bernhard Haurwitz—*Harvard Univ. Press*, 30 p., 50c. A physical study, of significance in the "new meteorology" just coming into its own in America, based on the relations of moving air masses.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Geography

YOUNG GEOGRAPHERS—Lucy Sprague Mitchell—*John Day*, 102 p., \$1. A book for teachers, containing many suggestions for the effective guiding of the natural location-curiosity of children, and its building up into a knowledge of geography that is a science rather than merely a series of memory drills.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Mathematics

ANALYTIC GEOMETRY—Frederick S. Nowlan—*McGraw-Hill Book Co.*, 352 p., \$2.25. Second edition of a text for university use.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Zoology

MORE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS—Hardison Patton—*Clement V. Ritter*, 191 p., \$3.00. This book is a supplement to the author's earlier work, *Raising Fur-Bearing Animals*. The animals here discussed are angora wool rabbit, fitch, and nutria or fisher.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Zoology

GENERAL ZOOLOGY—Frederick H. Kreckner—*Holt*, 634 p., \$3.50. A comprehensive general text, aimed primarily at the students whose only formal con-

tact with biological science will be the first-year course in college.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Entomology

A GENERAL TEXTBOOK OF ENTOMOLOGY—A. D. Imms—*Dutton*, 727 p., \$10.80. That Imm's textbook, at the end of its tenth year, must enter a third large edition is testimony enough of its success. The author notes that much emendation and rewriting has been undertaken, particularly in the sections dealing with anatomy and physiology, and some rearrangements have been made necessary by late developments in taxonomy.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Highways

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HIGHWAY RESEARCH BOARD—Roy W. Crum, ed.—*National Research Council*, 410 p., \$2.00. Part I consisting of reports of research committees and papers. The papers, which constitute original publications of technical importance in this field, are grouped under the headings: Highway Transportation Economics, Design, Materials and Construction, Maintenance, Traffic.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Mechanics

MECHANICS, A TEXT-BOOK FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS—Frank Gardner—*Oxford*, 256 p., \$2.75.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Biography

AMERICAN INVENTORS—C. J. Hylander—*Macmillan*, 216 p., \$2. Life histories of 19 of the men who created new industries and devices which we who are benefited often take for granted. There are many illustrations.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Radio

OFFICIAL SHORT-WAVE RADIO MANUAL, 1934—Hugo Gernsback, Editor—*Short Wave Craft*, 240 p., \$2.50. A comprehensive and voluminous loose leaf publication which will interest those engaged in short-wave construction and experimentation.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

National Parks

FAUNA OF THE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE UNITED STATES—George M. Wright, Joseph S. Dixon and Ben H. Thompson—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 157 p., 20c. This publication, constituting number 1 of a new Fauna Series of the U. S. National Parks Wild Life Survey, undertakes to present a broad general view of the ecological relations of animal life in the National Parks, and especially to outline wherein their world is out of joint and what must be done to set it right.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Geology

AN OUTLINE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY—Richard M. Field—*Barnes and Noble*, 196 p., 75c. An exceedingly compact little book, bristling with the things a properly prepared geologist needs to know but utterly stripped of non-essential detail. Recommended especially for advanced students who need to give their general background a "going over" before facing an examining board or other critical test of their knowledge.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Geology

THE NEWER APPALACHIANS OF THE SOUTH. PART I: BETWEEN THE POTOMAC AND THE NEW RIVERS—Frank J. Wright—*Denison Univ. Bull.*, 105 p., 28 pl., \$1.25. A careful topographic study in a region rich with early American history that flowed with the rivers and adventured over the ridges, of interest, therefore, to the historian and social economist as well as to the geologist and geographer.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Engineering

TEXT-BOOK ON HYDRAULICS—George E. Russell—*Holt*, 447 p., \$3.90. Fourth edition of an excellent text. The author is professor of hydraulics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

Book Publishing

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY—*McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.*, 16 p., free.

Science News Letter, September 1, 1934

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