



In Alien Soil

➤ VICTORY gardens will grow on German soil this spring, even though their cultivators are prisoners in the hands of the enemy. To the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, for distribution to prison camps in Europe where members of American armed forces are held, the American Red Cross has sent gardening kits, consisting of assorted seed sufficient to plant one-eighth of an acre and enough small hand tools to work the soil. Number of kits sent to any camp will depend on the request made by the camp spokesman.

Kinds and quantities of seed were decided upon by horticulturists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who gave special consideration to climatic and soil conditions in western Europe, as well as to the needs and preferences of the men.

The vegetable-seed assortment consists of the following: tomato, carrot, sweet-corn, green beans, peas, lettuce, radish, spinach, chard, cabbage, beet, onion, parsnip and turnip. To give a little bright floral relief to the utilitarian garden six packets each of zinnia, marigold and candytuft seed are also included.

Gardening has a double value for prisoners of war. Not only do they receive decided nutritional benefits from the fresh vegetables and a relief from the monotony and inadequacy of prison rations, but they get a real psychological "lift" from the exercise involved in garden work and the satisfaction of seeing their own crops grow.

A letter from one of the British camps describes a "mixed plantation," in the camp as it looked last June. There were lettuce and cucumber plants, beets, radishes, kohlrabi, tomatoes and a spinach bed, divided from the salads by a row of dwarf peas. The letter concludes:

"Although somewhat cramped for room, the herbaceous border will, we hope, make quite a good show in late summer with wall-flowers, scabious stocks and violas. The holding is under the anxious

care of five townsmen and one countryman and we have no 'experimental stations' to call up for advice, but our only unsolved problem is space."

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

Books of the Week

➤ WAR has made us more geography-conscious than we ever have been in all our previous national lifetime; and the opening of the Alcan Highway has focussed some of that consciousness on the great empire of mountains, forest and coastlands held severally by the United States and Canada in the north-western corner of this continent. Main facts about this great area are compactly presented by Benjamin H. Kizer in *THE U.S.-CANADIAN NORTHWEST*, prepared under the sponsorship of the American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations. (*Princeton Univ. Press*, \$1)

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

➤ BECAUSE it includes the extremely important genus *Derris*, as well as other plants of economic significance, J. Francis Macbride's new volume covering the legumes, in the *FLORA OF PERU* series (*Field Museum of Natural History*, \$3.50) will interest economic botanists as well as those whose interests are more strictly in the field of taxonomy.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

Just Off the Press

ABC'S OF SCAPEGOATING—foreword by Gordon W. Allport—*Central YMCA College*, 72 p., 25c, paper.

THE AMERICAN WOMAN: The Feminine Side of a Masculine Civilization—Ernest R. Groves—*Emerson*, 465 p., \$3.50, 2nd ed. rev.

BASIC MATHEMATICS FOR WAR AND INDUSTRY—Paul H. Daus, John M. Gleason and William M. Whyburn—*Macmillan*, 275 p., \$2.

THE CHEMISTRY OF ORGANIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS—Glenn L. Jenkins and Walter H. Hartung—*Wiley*, 675 p., \$6.50, 2nd ed.

CHINA HANDBOOK 1937-1943: A Comprehensive Survey of Major Developments in China in Six Years of War—Compiled by Chinese Ministry of Information—*Macmillan*, 965 p., \$5.

ELECTRON-OPTICS—Paul Hatschek—translated by Arthur Palme—*Amer. Photographic Pub.*, 161 p., illus., \$3. The book was written in German in 1935 and 1936 in order to explain the fundamentals of television and amplifying tubes and to make the comparatively new science of electronics understandable to those who had no previous knowledge of the subject.

FOOD—Frank A. Pearson and Don Paarlberg—*Knopf*, 249 p., \$2.75.

THE FRESH WATER TRICLADS OF MICHIGAN—Roman Kenk—*Univ. of Mich. Press*, 51 p., illus., 50c, misc. pub. No. 60, paper.

GAUGING PUBLIC OPINION—Hadley Cantrell and research associates—*Princeton Univ. Press*, 318 p., \$3.75.

POWER AND FLIGHT—Assen Jordanoff—*Harper*, 314 p., illus., \$3.50.

PRACTICAL RADIO AND ELECTRONICS COURSE: For Home Study—M. N. Beitman, ed—*Supreme Publications*; Vol. 1: Fundamentals of Radio and Electronics; Vol. 2: Receivers, Transmitters and Test Equipment; Vol. 3: Applied Electronics and Radio Servicing, 367 p., illus., \$3.95 for the set, paper.

MEDICINE AND THE WAR—William A. Taliaferro, ed.—*Univ. of Chic. Press*, 193 p., \$2.

TABLE OF CIRCULAR AND HYPERBOLIC TANGENTS AND COTANGENTS FOR RADIAN ARGUMENTS—Lyman J. Briggs and Arnold N. Lowan, eds.—*Col. Univ. Press*, 410 p. tables, \$5. Prepared by Mathematical Tables Project, Work Projects Administration of the Federal Works Agency, under sponsorship of National Bureau of Standards.

TABLE OF RECIPROCAL OF THE INTEGERS FROM 100,000 THROUGH 200,009—Lyman J. Briggs and Arnold N. Lowan, eds.—*Col. Univ. Press*, 204 p. tables, \$4. Prepared by Mathematical Tables Project, Work Projects Administration of the Federal Works Agency, under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards.

TABLE OF THE BESSEL FUNCTIONS $J_0(z)$ AND $J_1(z)$ FOR COMPLEX ARGUMENTS—Lyman J. Briggs and Arnold N. Lowan, eds.—*Col. Univ. Press*, 403 p. tables, \$5. Prepared by Mathematical Tables Project, Work Projects Administration of the Federal Works Agency, under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards.

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