

Books of the Week

➤ **POSTWAR** uses of plastics as well as wartime applications, figures giving details of the tremendous growth of this industry where the consumption of plastics materials has been multiplied about six times in six years, and information on recently developed materials such as silicones and polycarbonates are given in the 1945 PLASTICS CATALOG, (*Plastics Catalog Corp.*, \$6).

Science News Letter, March 17, 1945

➤ **THE COMET OF 1577**, visible in most of Europe and in Asia, made it possible for Tycho Brahe and a small group of his contemporaries to prove that comets do not enter the earth's atmosphere, but are farther away from the earth than the moon. C. Doris Hellman gives the comet its proper place in the history of astronomy by tracing the development of theories on comets up to that year and discussing representative bits of the literature about **THE COMET OF 1577**. (*Columbia Univ. Press*, \$6.)

Science News Letter, March 17, 1945

➤ **THE SCIENCE** of navigation, in language understandable to the average boy of high school age, is discussed in **PRACTICAL MARINE NAVIGATION**, by James A. Stowell, a text book for beginners. The author has had years of experience both at sea and in professions connected with it. The book covers subjects and problems used in everyday navigation. (*Wesley*, \$2.50.)

Science News Letter, March 17, 1945

➤ **HOW ASTRONOMERS** can find out so much about the stars is told in **TELESCOPES AND ACCESSORIES** by Dr. George Z. Dimitroff and Dr. James G. Baker of Harvard College Observatory (*Blakiston*, \$2.50),

which contains a description of the principal instruments and procedures used in astronomical observations. Beginning with a discussion of light itself, the book brings you to the point where you can construct your own photographic telescope for use in the home workshop. You will enjoy reading it as well as learn much about small and giant telescopes which nightly sweep the sky.

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Just Off the Press

ALCOHOLICS ARE SICK PEOPLE—Robert V. Seliger—*Alcoholism Publications*, 80 p., \$2.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS IN JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS, the Work of William Baker Nickerson (1895-1901) and the University of Chicago (1926-32)—John W. Bennett—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 168 p., paper, illus., \$3.

THE CONSTITUENTS OF WHEAT AND WHEAT PRODUCTS—C. H. Bailey—*Reinhold*, 332 p., illus., \$6.50 (Am. Chemical Soc. Monograph Series).

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA—Joseph Grinnell and Alden H. Miller—*Cooper Ornithological Club*, 608 p., illus., \$7.

THE MAGIC POWDER, History of the Universal Atlas Cement Company and the Cement Industry—Earl J. Hadley—*Putnam*, 382 p., illus., \$3.50.

NATIONAL FIRE CODES, Vol. 1, Flammable Liquids, Gases, Chemicals and Explosives—Robert S. Moulton, comp.—*Nat. Fire Protection Assn.*, 591 p., illus., \$3.

PLASTICS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL—H. Ronald Fleck—*Chemical Pub. Co., Inc.*, 325 p., illus., \$6.50.

PSYCHOLOGY FOR THE RETURNING SERVICEMAN—Irvin L. Child and Marjorie Van de Water, eds.—*Infantry Journal*, 243 p., paper, illus., 25c.

SMALL FARM AND BIG FARM—Carey McWilliams—*Public Affairs Committee, Inc.*, 31 p., paper, illus., 10c (Public Affairs Pamphlet, no. 100).

WOOD TECHNOLOGY, Constitution, Properties and Uses—Harry Donald Tiemann—*Pitman*, 328 p., illus., \$4, 2nd ed.

WOODWORKING PROJECTS FOR INDUSTRIAL ARTS STUDENTS—Gerald Baysinger and Hartley H. Schaal—*McGraw*, 151 p., illus., \$1.40.

Science News Letter, March 17, 1945

EMBRYOLOGY

Chemical Structure of Embryos Now Studied

By DR. GEORGE W. CORNER

Carnegie Institution of Washington; Department of Embryology, Baltimore

Address given before the Science Talent Institute.

➤ **ALMOST** every high-school student of biology begins to study embryology by observing the development of frogs' eggs into tadpoles and adult frogs. The embryology of man and other high animals begins in the same way, by describing the embryo at various stages of growth, to see how the tissues and organs of the body are laid down and unfolded. The advance of modern science, bringing chemistry and physics closer to biology, has added countless new problems and opened new opportunities for explaining the growth of an embryo in terms of its chemical structure. Nowadays an embryological institute, while still based on the microscopical study of individual specimens, is also an experimental laboratory in which the investigators are likely to use such tools as hormones and enzymes, X-rays, and radioactive elements produced by the cyclotron, in order to understand the internal physiology of the embryo.

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Muskrats, valuable for both meat and fur, can be grown successfully in captivity, but the plan has not yet been found generally profitable.



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