

mix. Insulative concrete at half the weight of ordinary concrete is more crack-resistant, and at one-third the weight has ample strength for building construction. Two-inch boards of the new material showed, in the tests here, almost as great insulation value as two layers of celotex between facings of plywood and having a total thickness of slightly over two inches.

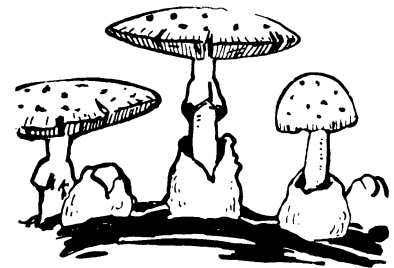
Slabs of insulative concrete will not support combustion, but will char when exposed to an intense heat such as a blow-

torch flame. In use the new material will probably usually be cast into slabs and fastened over the building frame.

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The lower estimates of the temperature of the centers of stars are in the tens of millions of degrees.

Bull moose have been found that stand seven and one-half feet high at the shoulders, weigh over 1,800 pounds, and with antlers spreading six feet or more.



Pass the Mushrooms!

➤ MUSHROOMS are unusually abundant this year, largely as a consequence of the persistently wet weather that has prevailed over the greater part of the country. In moist woodlands and wet meadows where they can commonly be found they are thicker and bigger than ever, and they are very apt to spring up in places where they have never been before—even in your own back yard.

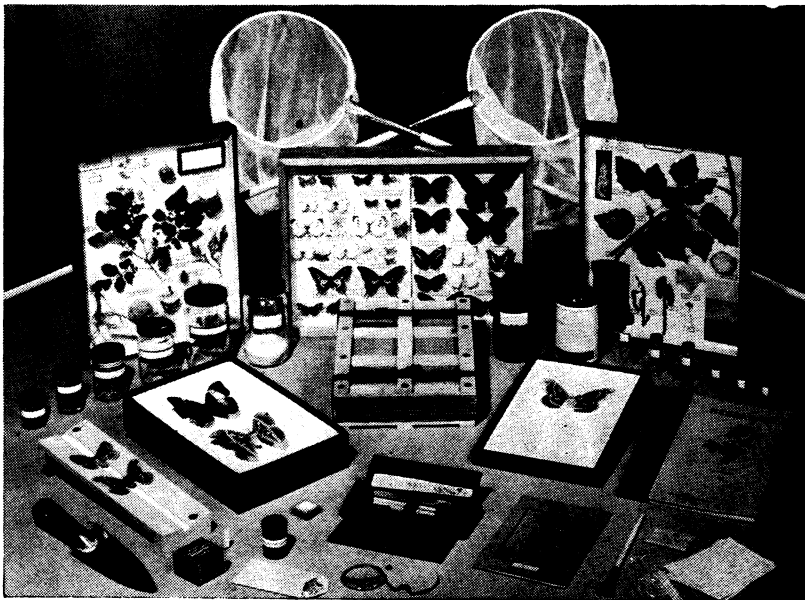
Most people fail to benefit by such abundance because they are afraid of wild mushrooms. They will pay fancy prices for a little basket of the common field agaric from the store, and ignore or kick to pieces a clump of exactly the same species that springs up on the lawn. And certain wild species, like the inky-cap and the morel, which are far better than any "boughten" mushroom ever could be, they shun with a double dread simply because they are unfamiliar.

There is some justification for this attitude. To enjoy wild mushrooms with confidence and safety, you have to know them, species by species. There is no dependable rule-of-thumb test. All the supposed tests, like the blackening of a silver spoon or peeling the skin off the cap, are simply worthless. You've simply got to know your mushrooms.

One supposedly infallible test, which condemns mushrooms as poisonous if they are black underneath, runs exactly contrary to fact. The ordinary mushroom that you buy in the market, the only kind that the great majority of us ever get to eat, is black underneath when it is mature. So is that most delicious of all wild mushrooms, the inky-cap—as its name indicates.

On the contrary, the deadliest of all poisonous mushrooms, the Amanitas or death-cups, are innocently white under-

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neath. It is this genus that the amateur mushroom gatherer most needs to learn how to recognize and avoid. Various species of *Amanita* are most abundant, and none of them has any warning taste, but most of the other poisonous mushrooms have. You can cook yourself a nice Borgia banquet of these and be none the wiser until you start to die, so attractive and appetizing are these deceptive fungi.

It is easy enough to recognize an *Amanita*, however. It is the only mushroom that has a ring around the upper or middle part of its stalk and a cup at the base. Some mushrooms have a ring

but no cup; the common agaric of the market-place is one. Others have a cup but no ring; the genus *Lepiota*, most of whose species are edible, is an example. But if it has both ring and cup, let it alone!

Admittedly, this condemns one innocent species along with the guilty. Caesar's *Amanita*, found both in Europe and this country, has the forbidding ring-and-cup combination, yet is not only edible but one of the finest-flavored of all mushrooms. However, for safety's sake it is better for the beginner to give all *Amanitas* a wide berth.

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PRACTICAL MARKSMANSHIP—M. M. Johnson, Jr.—*Morrow*, 183 p., illus., \$2.50. A Study of the Technique of Field Firing. Introduction by Julian C. Smith.

SHORT STORIES OF SCIENCE AND INVENTION—Charles Franklin Kettering—*Educational Service, General Motors Corp.*, 116 p., paper, illus., free. This is the collection of radio talks heard on Sunday afternoons. They are good reading as well as good listening.

WARTIME TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS—Bureau of Labor Statistics—Supt. of Doc., 418 p., 50 cents. A study made for the Subcommittee on War Mobilization of the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate. Subcommittee Monograph No. 2.

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Books of the Week

BUILDING TRADES BLUEPRINT READING; part 1, Fundamentals, part 2, Specifications, blueprints and examinations—J. Ralph Dalzell—*Amer. Tech. Soc.*, 234 p., paper, illus., \$2 ea.

CINCHONA IN JAVA—Norman Taylor—*Greenberg*, 87 p., illus., \$2.50. Introduction by Pieter Honig.

FIBER TO FABRIC—M. D. Potter—*Gregg*, 314 p., illus., \$2. A Textbook on Textiles for the Consumer.

THE GOVERNING OF MEN: General Principles and Recommendations Based on Experience at a Japanese Relocation Camp—Alexander H. Leighton—*Princeton Univ. Press*, 404 p., illus., \$3.75. Published in cooperation with the American Council Institute of Pacific Relations, Inc.

HANDBOOK FOR SHELL COLLECTORS—Walter Freeman Webb—308 p., paper, illus., \$2.50. Illustrations and descriptions of shells from all parts of the world.

HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY—Nellie D. Millard and Barry G. King—*Saunders*, 514 p., illus., \$3. Second edition,

Reset. Textbook on elementary anatomy and physiology.

MAMMALS OF THE PACIFIC WORLD—T. D. Carter and others—*Macmillan*, 227 p., illus., \$3. The Pacific World Series. A paper bound edition of this book for the Armed Forces only, was published by the *Infantry Journal* under title of **ANIMALS OF THE PACIFIC WORLD**.

A MANUAL OF SOIL FUNGI—Joseph C. Gilman—*Collegiate Press*, 392 p., illus., \$5. A Book of the Iowa State College Press.

THE MEANING OF RELATIVITY—Albert Einstein—*Princeton Univ. Press*, 135 p., illus., \$2. 2nd. ed. with an appendix by the author discussing advances in the theory of relativity.

THE PEOPLES OF MALAYSIA—Fay-Cooper Cole—*Van Nostrand*, 354 p., illus., \$4. Includes the Philippines, Bali and Java, Borneo, British Malaysia and many of the South Pacific islands.

PHARMACEUTICAL CALCULATIONS—Willis T. Bradley and Carroll B. Gustafson—*Lea*, 283 p., \$2.75.

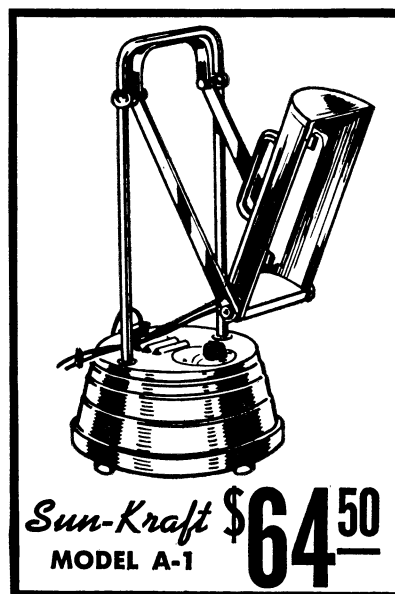
CHEMISTRY

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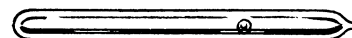
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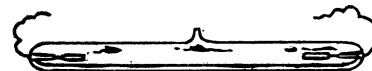
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