

Books of the Week

► **AERIAL NAVIGATION** students will find much of value in *AIR NAVGATOR*, by Charles Mattingly. It is primarily a training text for instructional purposes, and a reference source for professional navigators. (Ziff-Davis, \$6.)

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

► **THE DOZEN** years that have elapsed between the publication of the first edition of A. S. Romer's *VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY* and the appearance now of the second have seen very great progress in the particular field of science covered by this book. With the numerous revisions necessarily incorporated, it is practically a new work, and more valuable than ever to the student. (*Univ. of Chicago Press*, \$7.50.)

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

► **DESPITE** much good writing to the contrary, "germs" still connote "disease" to too many people. *MICROBES OF MERIT*, by Otto Rahn, tells in lively and entertaining fashion (but without distorting the facts) the story of bacteria as ripeners of food, promoters of industrial processes, capturers of nitrogen and general improvers of the soil through beneficial decay. Anyone who dreads all germs as he hates all snakes should have this book presented to him—and a promise to read it exacted from him. (*Cattell*, \$4.)

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

► **FRANS VERDOORN**, that indefatigable Dutch botanist who has become an outstanding American scientific publisher, again makes scientists of two continents his debtors with his compilation of papers from several score authors into one solid, informative volume, *PLANTS AND PLANT SCIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA*. Some of the material has been previously published elsewhere, notably in *Chronica Botanica*, but much appears here for the first time. The book should be a solid help in making good neighbors into better-understanding neighbors. (*Chronica Botanica Co.*, \$6.)

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

► **WITH ALL THE WORLD** apprehensive of hunger in the coming months, *WORLD GRAIN REVIEW AND OUTLOOK*, 1945, by Helen C. Farnsworth and V. P. Timoshenko becomes a particularly timely book. The statistical appendix by Rosamond H. Peirce gives much valuable information in little space. (*Food Res. Inst.*, \$3.)

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

Just Off the Press

AMERICAN PETROLEUM REFINING—H. S. Bell—*Van Nostrand*, 619 p., illus., \$7.50 Third ed., revised and enlarged.

AMERICAN RED CROSS FIRST AID TEXT-BOOK—*Blakiston*—254 p., paper, illus., 60 cents. Revised ed. Prepared by the American Red Cross for the instruction of First Aid Classes. (See p. 296)

AVIATION: What Everyone Should Know—Devon Francis—*Bobbs-Merrill*, 229 p., illus., \$2.50. What Everyone Should Know series.

BIG DISTANCE—Donald Hough and Elliott Arnold—*Duell*, 255 p., illus., \$3. The story of the fighting AAF in the South and Southwest Pacific from the days when we were beaten in the Philippines to the day when American forces came back in triumph.

ENKI AND NINHURSAG: A Sumerian "Paradise" Myth—Samuel N. Kramer—*Amer. Schools of Oriental Research*, paper, 40 p., illus., 75 cents. Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Supplementary Studies, no. 1.

GENERAL AND PLASTIC SURGERY, With Emphasis on War Injuries—J. Eastman Sheehan—*Hoerber*, 345 p., illus., \$6.75. A reference book on modern operative methods.

HANDBOOK OF KNOTS—Raoul Graumont—*Cornell Maritime Press*, 194 p., illus., \$1.75. Illustrates and explains each of 428 knots and ties in detail.

HIGHWAY RESEARCH BOARD: Proceedings of the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting—Roy W. Crum and Fred Burggraf, eds.—*National Research Council*, 543 p., illus., \$5.

MEN, MIND, AND POWER—David Abrahamsen—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 155 p., \$2. An analysis of the mentality of a maladjusted German people and its leaders.

PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY OF CELLS AND TISSUES—Rudolf Hober and others—*Blakiston*, 676 p., illus., \$9.

PLASTICS: What Everyone Should Know—Bernard Wolfe—*Bobbs-Merrill*, 189 p., illus., \$2.50. What Everyone Should Know series.

A STUDY OF THE FISHES OF THE SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AND COASTAL PLAIN—Henry W. Fowler—*Acad. of Natural Sciences*, paper, 450 p., illus., \$7.50. Monograph No. 7.

TOWARD IMPROVING PH.D. PROGRAMS—Ernest V. Hollis—*Amer. Council on Education*, 204 p., \$2.50. Prepared for the Commission on Teacher Education.

URANIUM AND ATOMIC POWER—Jack De Ment and H. C. Drake—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 343 p., illus., \$4. With appendix on the atomic bomb.

VAPOR ADSORPTION: Industrial Applications and Competing Processes—Edward Ledoux—*Chem. Pub. Co.*, 360 p., illus., \$8.50. Foreword by Donald F. Othmer.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

INVENTION

Faster Roller Makes Smoother Sheet Glass

► **SMOOTHER** sheet glass is produced by the relatively simple expedient of spinning one of the rollers that flattens the still-soft mass so fast that it carries a film of air on its surface and thereby is kept from direct contact with the hot glass, in the invention on which Dr. Manson L. Devol of Wilksburg, Pa.,

obtained patent 2,387,886. Direct contact with the soft, hot glass, Dr. Devol explains, changes the shape of the roller and in time erodes its surface. Protecting the roller with an air film obviates this cause of poor glass surfaces. Rights in the patent have been assigned to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

Science News Letter, November 10, 1945

CHEMISTRY

Fire-Resistant Lacquer Adds Structural Strength

► **NEW AIRCRAFT** lacquer, that will not support combustion when used on fabric-covered planes, acts as a tautening agent and adds measurable structural strength as the covering tightens around the airframe, it is claimed.

The new material is now in production at the plant of the Monsanto Chemical Company in Everett, Mass. In addition to these properties, it combines increased weather resistance with ease of application. It is sprayed on at ordinary room temperature. Its fire-resistant property is an asset when used on the interior walls of a plane.

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Commercial sponges grow in the Mediterranean and Red Seas and in the waters off Florida and the West Indies.

Whooping cough is second among infectious and parasitic diseases as a cause of death in young children.

The *Columbia River* is the finest supply of pure cold river water in this country.

Trees in certain German forests now have little value for lumber because of the large quantities of steel fragments embedded in them.

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