

Books of the Week

ADVANCES IN COLLOID SCIENCE: Vol. II: Scientific Progress in the Field of Rubber and Synthetic Elastomers—H. Mark and G. S. Whitby, Eds., *Interscience Pub., Inc.*, 453 p., tables and illus., \$7. A book useful in assisting in the further study of synthetic rubbers and of elastomers generally, as well as of natural rubbers.

ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE: An Anthology of Modern Science-Fiction Stories—R. J. Healy and J. F. McComas, Eds., *Random House*, 997 p., \$2.95. A collection of thirty-four stories, wherein the caution of the scientist gives way to the imagination of the writer.

COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF INSECTS—*Government Printing Office*, 42 p., diags. and illus., paper, 15 cents. Information on the collecting, preserving, handling, mounting and labeling of insect specimens. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Misc. Pub. No. 601.

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE FILMS—Mary F. Horkheimer and John W. Diffor, Eds., *Educators Progress Service*, 303 p., \$4.

ELECTRIC MOTOR REPAIR—Robert Rosenberg—*Murray Hill Books*—551 p., illus., \$5. An intensely practical, non-theoretical book on electric-motor repair and rewinding that can be used by men with little background of electrical knowledge.

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS GUIDE TO FREE CURRICULUM MATERIALS—John Guy Fowlkes and Donald A. Morgan, Eds., *Educators Progress Service*, 204 p., paper, \$3.50, third ed.

ELEPHANTS—Herbert S. Zim—*Morrow*—illus., \$2. A book that tells with clear simplicity and accuracy all about elephants. It will appeal strongly to younger readers with its simple text and large, clear type, but it is also interesting reading for any age.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE FAO CONFERENCE—Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 45 p., paper, free.

THE FLAGELLATE SUBFAMILY OXYMONADINAE—Joy Barnes—*University of California Press*, 162 p., paper, \$1.25.

GENERAL BIOLOGY—William C. Beaver—*Mosby*—820 p., tables and illus., \$4.75. A textbook which places emphasis on human biology, penicillin and the other antibiotics, viruses, economically important parasitic worms, the pronunciation and derivation of terms, and human diseases produced by parasitic fungi.

MUSIC IN HOSPITALS—Willem van de Wall—*Russell Sage Foundation*—86 p., paper, \$1. A handbook for those who wish to make their musical contribution to hospitals.

NON-PROJECTIVE PERSONALITY TESTS—Roy Waldo Miner, ed., *The New York Academy of Sciences*, 147 p., paper, \$1.75. Vol. XLVI, Art. 7.

OPINIONS ON GAINS FOR AMERICAN EDUCATION FROM WARTIME ARMED SERVICES TRAINING—M. M. Chambers—*American Council on Education*—78 p., paper, 50 cents. A report on the experience and observations of war-veteran students, pointing up some of the possible gains for American education from the huge wartime-training effort.

PERSONALITY PLUS—Sheila John Daly—*Dodd, Mead & Co.*—139 p., illus., \$2. Hints on the correct behavior for teenagers by a teen-ager.

PREPARATION OF AMMONIUM NITRATE FOR USE AS A FERTILIZER—*Government Printing Office*—80 p., tables and illus., paper, 20 cents. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Technical Bulletin No. 912—June 1946.

REEF AND SHORE FAUNA OF HAWAII—Charles H. Edmondson—*Bernice P. Bishop Museum*—381 p., illus., paper, \$3. A condensed pictorial treatise on the marine fauna of Hawaii. Special Publication 22.

WORLD FOOD SURVEY—*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*—39 p., tables and diags., paper, free. July 5, 1946.

Science News Letter, August 31, 1946

POLITICS

UN Committee Planning International Standards

➤ A LITTLE-KNOWN but potentially important United Nations organization is the UN's Standard Coordinating Committee that is planning international standards for such varied items as airfield lighting and textiles.

Newest of the 18 members of the committee is Russia, and the draft for a permanent international standards group is now being studied by the members in preparation for a conference in London in October.

Latest project submitted to the group includes 94 test methods for textiles, proposed by the American Standards Association.

Other projects for international standardization under consideration by the UN committee include: metal food containers; definition of the term rayon; manganese ore test methods; terms and definitions relating to the heat treatment of steel; plastics terminology; radio interference suppression; airfield lighting; simplification of shellac grades and methods of testing the properties of shellac; standard for sheet and wire gages; machine tools; automobile standards; building standards; and several other subjects for possible international definition and testing.

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Egyptian species, and of further careful selection of their offspring with differently colored staples, Maximenko succeeded in obtaining absolutely new shades hitherto unknown in nature. According to Maximenko's research, the green color of cotton fiber is not chlorophyll and differs in nature from brown coloring. This is indicated by the manner in which the colors appear. Whereas brown, according to Maximenko's observations, appears within 20 to 25 days of beginning of formation of ball, green appears within 30 to 40 days. It was also established that the green coloring changes easily under influence of external factors. For instance, given surplus moisture, green will become almost black and, on the contrary, with insufficient moisture it becomes lighter.

Outstanding shortcomings inherent to green fiber cotton plants are their low crop yield and weakness of fiber. These were successfully overcome by Maximenko. Varieties which he selected from hybrids are already yielding fiber with a higher tensile strength.

Science News Letter, August 31, 1946



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