

Books of the Week

ADVANCED MECHANICS OF MATERIALS—Glenn Murphy—*McGraw-Hill*, 307 p., answers to problems, figs., \$4. An advanced undergraduate or graduate course in strength of materials, including such topics as the relationships among stresses and strains at a point, theories of failure, axial loading, stress concentration, and others, with emphasis on the tools, geometry and properties of materials.

THE ANCIENT MAYA—Sylvanus G. Morley—*Stanford Univ. Press*, 520 p., illus., \$10.00. The authoritative story of America's most brilliant native civilization in pre-Columbian times in Northern Central America and Southern Mexico.

A.S.T.M. STANDARDS ON TEXTILE MATERIALS (with Related Information) 1946 issue—*American Society for Testing Materials*, 490 p., illus., paper, \$4. Contains definitions and terms, methods of testing, tolerances and specifications for textiles and related materials developed by the A.S.T.M.

BUTALASTIC POLYMERS, Their Preparation and Application—Frederick Marchionna—*Reinhold*, 642 p., illus., \$8.50. A treatise on synthetic rubbers, giving sources and production of monomers, mechanism and processes of polymerization, and processing and industrial application of butalastics.

FROM GALILEO TO THE NUCLEAR AGE—Harvey Brace Lemon—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 451 p., illus., \$5. This revised edition of *From Galileo to Cosmic Rays*, presents physics in a highly entertaining though authoritative manner, and makes the subject fascinating to students and nonscientific readers.

GREENHOUSE GARDENING FOR EVERYONE—Ernest Chabot—*Barrows*, 266 p., illus.,

\$3. A book that answers about all the questions about gardening under glass, and carries a chapter on insects and plant diseases, with a program for easy control, as well as calendars and tables for planting in greenhouses and garden frames.

MICROCALORIMETRY—W. Swietoslawski—*Reinhold*, 199 p., figs., \$4.75. This book gives a comprehensive description of the methods used in measuring small amounts of heat developed by different objects. Microcalorimetric measurements have been employed in many fields recently, and it is expected that a wider application of this method lies ahead.

NEW WORLD OF MACHINES: Research, Discovery, Invention—Harland Manchester—*Random House*, 313 p., illus., \$3. The story of the new discoveries and inventions that will reshape the post-war world, such as radar, television, new wonders of lighting, communication and transportation, plastics, artificial rubber, and the new techniques in farming.

PERSONAL COUNSEL—A Supplement to *Morals*—Robert Frank—*Informative Books*, 306 p., \$3.50. Although this book is an attempt to meet popular reading requirements in the presentation and explanation of fundamental principles and facts applicable in personal relations, it is suggested as a collateral text in the presentation of intimate personal problems confronting young people.

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They Do Not Die

► DYING FLOWERS and falling leaves have been the keynotes of no end of melancholy moping in song and verse. The general symbolism seems to go away back: we find it in such myths as those of Isis and Osiris, Venus and Adonis, and Orpheus and Eurydice. The slaying of Baldr with the mischievous Loki's arrow of mistletoe is a Northern variant of the same theme.

In modern times, poets with a relish for the melancholy have for the most part dropped mythological symbolism and written directly about the dying flowers themselves. Probably Bryant's poem, beginning "The melancholy days have come," is the best known of this genre.

Bryant even selected a few species for special mention: windflower, violet, brier-rose, orchis, goldenrod, aster and brookside sunflower. Bryant was a pretty good poet, but he certainly must have been either ignorant or unmindful of botany, for not one of the plants in his list dies in the fall. They are all perennials; though their flowers may dis-

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