

Books of the Week

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, 1945—*Govt. Printing Office*, 484 p., illus., \$1.75. The usual appendix contains authoritative summary article for which this report has long been famous.

BIOLOGIA—Frans Verdoorn, Ed.—*Chronica Botanica*, \$4 for 2 yrs. A 4-page monthly newsletter supplement to *Chronica Botanica*, listing international biological societies, commissions and congresses. Jan. 1947. Vol 1, No. 1.

CHEMICAL SPECIALTIES: A Symposium—Compiled by H. Bennett—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 826 p., illus., \$12.50. A guide to those who would like to build up a chemical specialty business. Its purpose is to teach the elements of chemistry to the businessman and give the necessary business information to the chemist.

EVERYBODY'S HANDICRAFT HANDBOOK: Hobbies Made Easy For Fun and Profit—*Progress Press*, 155 p., illus., paper, \$2. A manual that describes the major arts and crafts at the most elementary level and guides the reader through the more advanced stages.

THE FREEZING PRESERVATION OF FOODS—D. K. Tressler and C. F. Evers—*Avi Publ. Co.*, 932 p., illus., \$10. A revised and enlarged edition including all phases of the preservation of food by means of freezing.

FROM HEAD TO FOOT: Our Bodies and How They Work—Alex Novikoff—*Int. Pubs.*, 96 p., illus., \$2. A book that discusses each life process, and describes the amazing variety of jobs our bodies do—breathing, digestion, circulation of blood, etc. For readers from the age 12 up. A Young World Book.

HANDBOOK OF MICROSCOPIC CHARACTER-

ISTICS OF TISSUES AND ORGANS, 3rd ed.—Karl A. Stiles—*Blakiston*, 214 p., illus., paper, \$1.75. An outline which will assist in learning and understanding the microscopic structure and functionings of living tissues and organs.

HOW TO FLY: A Practical Guide to the Fundamentals of Flight—*Progress Press*, 56 p., illus., paper, \$1. An explanation of what actually happens in the process of learning to fly, based upon official information of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

OPERATION CROSSROADS: The Official Pictorial Record—The Office of the Historian Joint Task Force One—*Wise*, 224 p., illus., \$2. A record which makes clear the extent of the preparations and activities constituting Joint Task Force One.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE PRESCHOOL CHILD: The Child's Search for His Self—Werner Wolff—*Grune & Stratton*, 341 p., illus., \$5. A study that deals with such practical questions as education, guidance, and personality diagnosis.

PRACTICAL ELECTRICAL MATHEMATICS—William E. Rasch—*Heath*, 357 p., illus., \$2. A book that provides organized instruction in the mathematics of the electrical trade.

THE PROBLEM OF FERTILITY: Proceedings of the Conference on Fertility Held Under the Auspices of the National Committee on Maternal Health—Earl T. Engle, Ed.—*Princeton Univ. Press.*, 254 p., illus., \$3.75.

SMITH'S COLLEGE CHEMISTRY, 6th ed.—William F. Ehret—*Appleton-Century*, 677 p., illus., \$4.75. An up-to-date text for the college chemistry student.

Science News Letter, January 18, 1947

PUBLIC HEALTH

Veterans Improve Health On College Campuses

► THE GENERAL health level on American college campuses appears to be improving with the enrollment of veterans in large numbers.

This has been found true at the University of California, where slightly more than half the 22,000 students are veterans. The same improvement in general health has also been noted at the University of Michigan.

Dr. William G. Donald, University physician at Berkeley, said that the student sick rate is far below the prewar level. He cited the following figures on outpatient visits to the student hospital showing the sudden improvement in health: in November, 1944, there were 1,228 visits per thousand; in November, 1945, after the first influx of veterans, the rate went down to 795 per thousand; in November, 1946, after veterans became the predominant group on the campus, the rate was 523 per thousand.

Dr. Donald says the veterans' superior health can be attributed to several factors: they are a physically superior group; they have had more than ordinary contacts with people through travel, building up natural immunities; and their immunity to disease has been increased by frequent vaccinations.

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MEDICINE

Streptomycin Ear Damage

► DIZZINESS, vertigo and transient or permanent loss of hearing may follow streptomycin treatment, Drs. Edmund P. Fowler and Ewing Seligman of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons warn in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Jan. 11).

Because of the possibility of such complications, physicians should consider carefully whether streptomycin is the medicine to give in a particular case and should examine the patient's hearing and balance mechanism within the ear by audiograms and vestibular tests, the New York physicians advise.

If the patient needs the drug, however, the possibility of ear complications should not keep it from being used.

Ear complications occurred in four of about 160 patients treated with streptomycin at Halloran General Hospital, the

doctors report. Other cases have been reported by a few other physicians. Commenting on all these, Drs. Fowler and Seligman state:

"It is evident that a high incidence of vestibular disturbance and a sizable number of cases of deafness, either transitory or permanent, will occur with the use of streptomycin of even the best current manufacture if large doses of the drug are given over prolonged periods."

The ear symptoms, if they occur, start as a rule on the 17th to 20th day. The doctors hope it will turn out that they are due to impurities in the drug. To prove this, before and after tests of the patient's ears should be made, they suggest, and records of manufacturers' names and lot numbers of the drug used should be carefully kept.

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PERSONAL COUNSEL

A Supplement to Morals

by ROBERT FRANK

(306 pages including Index—\$3.50)

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