

Books of the Week

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR—J. A. Krug—U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 448 p., paper, \$1. Problems of natural resource management and development.

BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW DWELLING CONSTRUCTION; Building Materials and Structures Report BMS107—National Bureau of Standards—U. S. Govt. Printing Office, 43 p. paper, 20 cents.

CASEY JONES CYCLOPEDIA OF AVIATION TERMS—Arr. by Henry Lionel Williams—McGraw-Hill, 246 p., illus., \$5. Prepared under the supervision of Aviation Research Associates.

DOMESTIC GEESSE AND DUCKS—Paul Ives—Orange Judd, 372 p., illus., \$3.50. Discussion of problems connected with raising geese and ducks for student and practical breeder.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING; Essential Theory and Typical Applications—Fred H. Pumphrey—Prentice-Hall, 369 p., illus., \$5.35. A text for students specializing in other fields.

ELECTRONS, ATOMS, MOLECULES—Albert Cushing Crehore—Christopher, 133 p., illus., \$3.75. New conception of forms of atoms in their steady states supported by calculations.

FLOWERS—William Alphonso Murrill—Published by the author, 120 p., illus., \$3. A simple guide to wild flower recognition.

HUMAN DESTINY—Lecomte du Nouy—Longmans, 289 p., \$3.50. A scientist presents a new interpretation of evolution, and expresses a startling theory of man's place in the universe.

THE JOURNAL OF GLACIOLOGY, Vol. I, No. 1, January 1947—Gerald Seligman, ed.

—British Glaciological Society, price to non-members 7s6d per issue.

MAMMALS OF EASTERN ASIA—G. H. H. Tate—Macmillan, 366 p., illus., \$4. An introduction to animals in the East still strangers to the West.

PLASTICS AND YOU—Stephen Bass—Eastwood-Steli, 190 p., illus., \$2.75. The story of a new fast-growing industry presented in a simple readable way.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL STRESS ANALYSIS—C. Lipson, ed.—Addison-Wesley, Vol. IV, No. 1, 128 p., illus., \$6.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARINE ECOLOGY AS RELATED TO PALEONTOLOGY—Div. Geology and Geography—National Research Council, 101 p., paper, 50 cents. The sixth report of this committee.

STUDIES OF COMPULSIVE DRINKERS: Part I. Case Histories—Herman Wortis and Leonard R. Sillman; Part II. Psychological Test Results—Florence Halpern—Hillhouse Press, 90 p., paper, \$1. Distributed by the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol.

TANKER MANUAL—John F. Summerill—Cornell Maritime Press, 150 p., illus., \$2.75. A basic training manual for beginners and a refresher for experienced tanker men.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BLINDNESS?—Herbert Yahres—Public Affairs Committee, Pamphlet No. 124, 32 p., paper, 10 cents. How to treat the blind like human beings.

YOUR CRAFT BOOK—Louis V. Newkirk and LaVada Zutter—Int. Textbook, 212 p., illus., \$5. A treasure-house of creative work projects for children, requiring only simple materials and tools.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1947

are lead iodide, iodoform, iodine crystals, apatite, nephelite, wurtzite, zincite, and certain cerium oxides.

Pointing out that a temperature of minus 31 degrees Fahrenheit is required for natural ice nuclei to form spontaneously, and that natural snowstorms often occur at temperatures higher than this, Dr. Langmuir said there is every reason to believe that nature often starts snowstorms with artificial nuclei.

He estimated that approximately 200 pounds of silver iodide might prove sufficient to seed the entire atmosphere of the United States at the rate of 100,000 nuclei per cubic foot. "About one pound of silver iodide per hour of additional seeding probably would be required to maintain this condition," he said.

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One important method of making chlorine is as a co-product in the manufacture of caustic soda from salt by the electrolytic process.

PHYSICS

Snow for Weather Control

► AIRPLANE ICING conditions over large areas, and severe hail storm activity such as prevail in parts of the Midwest, may some day be curtailed or eliminated by creating artificial snowstorms, Dr. Irving Langmuir of General Electric Laboratories told the American Physical Society.

"Undoubtedly, some climatic or weather changes would ensue from vast area seeding" with microscopic nuclei, he said, "but we are in too early a stage to speculate on that." The nuclei might be introduced by generators on the ground into the atmosphere and remain there until they produce snow.

Dr. Langmuir reported on successful experiments made in GE laboratories

under his direction by Vincent J. Schaefer and Dr. Bernard Vonnegut. They have found about a dozen substances to serve as nuclei to produce snow in laboratory cold-chambers, including dry ice previously reported, of which silver iodide is the best.

Natural snowflakes contain microscopic foreign particles as nuclei. In the laboratory experiments moist air is introduced into a small commercial freezing unit and the artificial nuclei added. With dry ice, snow crystals begin to form in ten seconds and increase in size as more moisture is supplied.

Among the foreign materials, in addition to dry ice and silver iodide, successfully used in producing laboratory snow

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