

Books of the Week

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ALASKA BECKONS—Marius Barbeau—*Caxton*, 343 p., illus., \$4.50. A dramatic interpretation of the Indian lore of this north country and correlation of these peoples' history, folk lore and music with the Asiatic peoples of long ago.

AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY—Harold Zink—*MacMillan*, 272 p., \$4. A careful analysis of the development of military government from temporary measures to long-range planning, the obstacles encountered and future plans.

BLOODHOUNDS AND HOW TO TRAIN THEM—Leon F. Whitney—*Orange-Judd*, 142 p., illus., \$2. A complete discussion of the training required to teach these hounds to trail man. Police procedure is particularly emphasized.

CHEMISTRY OF MUSCULAR CONTRACTION—A. Szent-Gyorgyi—*Academic Press*, 150 p., illus., \$4.50. Delivered as the Cameron-Prize Lecture at the University of Edinburgh, this is a discussion of the constituents of the contractile muscle fibril and the induction of contraction *in vitro*.

THE DATES AND EDITIONS OF CURTIS' BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY—Richard E. Blackwelder—*Smithsonian*, Misc. Col. Vol. 107, No. 5, 26 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. A comparison of the original edition of this classic source for genotype designation with the revised reprint edition. In the latter some major changes were made in genotype designation and nomenclature.

FABRIC STRUCTURE—John H. Strong—*Chemical Pub.*, 241 p., illus., \$6. Completely illustrated with diagrams and photographs, this text is both a good foundation for textile students and a useful reference book. Particular emphasis is laid on the characteristics of the different threads, both natural and artificial.

HERMON CAREY BUMPUS: YANKEE NATURALIST—Hermon C. Carey, Jr.—*Univ. of Minn.*, 141 p., illus., \$2.50. This biography records the varied career of a man distinguished as biologist, museum director, and college official.

A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION 1847 to 1947—Morris Fish-

bein—*Saunders*, 1226 p., illus., \$10. Commemorating the centennial of the A.M.A., this history reviews its rise as a great organization, its campaigns in behalf of medical education, to eliminate quackery, improve industrial health and provide throughout the country a high quality of medical care.

MICROBIAL ANTAGONISMS AND ANTIBIOTIC SUBSTANCES—Selman A. Waksman—*Commonwealth Fund*, rev. ed., 415 p., illus., \$4. Bringing up to date the material on streptomycin and penicillin, this basic text in antibiotics has also an enlarged bibliography.

P-Q-R-S-T—Joseph E. F. Riseman—*Macmillan*, 84 p., illus., \$3.50. A beginner's guide for use during examination and interpretation of electrocardiographic tracings.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS BY SPOT TESTS; Inorganic and Organic Applications—Fritz Feigl—*Elsevier*, 3rd ed. 573 p., illus., \$8. Completely up-to-date, this classic text on spot analyses is again available. A section on technique and apparatus is included as well as a survey of all literature on spot test analysis.

RADAR ENGINEERING—Donald G. Fink—*McGraw-Hill*, 644 p., illus., \$7. Designed to provide a general compilation of radar information, Part I deals with fundamental concepts of radar technology; Part II, with components, circuits and structures used in equipment.

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MEDICINE

"Tagged" War Gases Traced Through Body

► "HUMAN GUINEA PIG" and animal experiments in which the deposition in living tissues of the deadly war gases, mustard and lewisite, was traced with radioactive substances, have been revealed at the University of California.

The experiments were done during the war to learn more about the action of these gases. Dorothy Axelrod, research assistant, and Dr. Joseph G. Hamilton, associate professor of medical physics, reported the work in the *American Journal of Pathology* (May).

In the experiments, a tiny section of skin was painted over with mustard gas "tagged" with radioactive sulfur or lewisite "tagged" with radioactive arsenic. Thin slices of biopsied skin taken after administration were placed on a photographic plate, the radioactivity exposing the film.

From these radioautographs, Miss Axelrod and Dr. Hamilton were able to determine in what tissues and types of

cells the two gases were found to concentrate.

Lewisite was deposited in the outer layer of the skin, the hair follicles and hair. Very little penetrated to the deeper layers of skin, but it was very destructive to cells wherever it lodged.

Mustard gas proved much more penetrating, going primarily into the under layer of skin, thus possibly explaining the deep burns found in exposure to this gas.

An accumulation of both materials was found in and around blood vessels.

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YALE

★ THE NEW BOOK BY ★

JAMES B. Conant

President of Harvard University

ON Understanding

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"A clear and winning account of the tactics and strategy of science . . . a guide for layman and expert alike."—Philip Morrison, *N. Y. Times Book Review*.

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—Jacques Barzun, *Harper's Magazine*

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