

# Books of the Week

TO SERVE YOU: To get these books, send us a check or money order to cover retail price. For free publications send 10 cents to cover handling. Address Book Dept., SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

ANCIENT PLANTS AND THE WORLD THEY LIVED IN—Henry N. Andrews—*Comstock*, 279 p., illus., \$4.50. An introduction to paleobotany to help the present day botanist understand the flora of the world we live in by explaining the derivation of present plant forms from past ones.

APPLIED ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS—Michael Rettinger—*Chemical Pub.*, 188 p., illus., \$5.50. A discussion of the progress made in this type of functional design in the past decades, particularly due to the demands of sound studios and theaters. A practical handbook for architect and engineer, it will also serve the student well.

AS YOU SOW—Walter Goldschmidt—*Harcourt*, 288 p., illus., \$4. A study of the effects of industrialized agriculture on the traditional rural society and its daily life.

ATOMICS FOR THE MILLIONS—Maxwell Leigh Eidinoff and Hyman Ruchlis—*McGraw-Hill*, 278 p., illus., \$3.50. With simple, understandable illustrations, this explanation of atomic energy can be followed by the reader who has no previous scientific or mathematical training. It also explains what the hopes are for future uses of atomic energy in industry and medicine.

CINEPLASTY—Henry H. Kessler—*Thomas*, 201 p., illus., \$6.75. An examination of the subject of fitting the amputee with the best possible prosthesis and utilizing the still functioning muscles for its activation.

CLASSIFICATION AND RANGES OF THE GOPHER SNAKES OF THE GENUS *PITOPHIS* IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES—L. M. Klauber—*Zoological Society of San Diego*, Bulletin 22, 81 p., illus., paper, \$1.15.

CULTURE COMPLEXES AND CHRONOLOGY IN NORTHERN TEXAS WITH EXTENSION OF PUEBLOAN DATING TO THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY—Alex D. Krieger—*Univ. of Texas*, 366 p., illus., \$2.50. An attempt at correlation across the Southwestern and Southeastern parts of the continent, in terms of culture complexes, chronology of Puebloan architecture, and degrees of contact of peoples in these parts.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING: Problems and Their Solutions—T. F. Wall—*Chemical Pub.*, 312 p., \$5. A companion volume to PRINCIPLES OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, examples have been chosen to emphasize the principles therein dealt with; graded to tax the faculties of the solver.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HYDROCARBON COMPOUNDS: VOL. II—C6 and C7—Joseph Escott Faraday, compiler—*Chemical Pub.*, 603 p., \$17.50. With sturdy loose-leaf binder so that replacement-addition sheets may be quickly inserted, this research aid presents molecular and structural formulae, occurrence in nature, trivial names, methods of preparation, physical constants, properties, and tests for all compounds. An extensive bibliography is included.

GENERAL PLASTICS: Projects and Procedures—Raymond Cherry—*McKnight and McKnight*, 156 p., illus., paper, \$1.50. A

handicraft book explaining carefully all the procedures used in making articles from plastics. This versatile material lends itself well to working in the home shop.

HANDBOOK OF INDUSTRIAL RADIOLOGY—Members of the Industrial Radiology Group of the Institute of Physics, J. A. Crowtner, ed.—*Edw. Arnold & Co.*, 203 p., illus., \$7. Uses of X-ray for flaw detection together with practical information on setting-up the material for exposure and response of photographic materials.

LABOR'S RELATION TO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY—Liston Pope, ed.—*Inst. for Rel. and Social Studies*, 182 p., \$2.50. Labor leaders discuss their aims and achievements in relation to the community and the values and faiths by which they live.

MAKING YOUR OWN TELESCOPE—Allyn J. Thompson—*Sky*, 211 p., illus., \$3.50. Complete instructions and detailed diagrams for making your first telescope. The one illustrated, made by the author, cost under \$30.

MOCHE: A PERUVIAN COASTAL COMMUNITY—John Gillin—*Smithsonian Inst.*, Inst. of Social Anthropology Publ. No. 3, 166 p., illus., paper, \$1. Study of a community in the last stages of losing its identity as an Indian group and being absorbed into national Peruvian life.

MODERN POLISHES AND SPECIALTIES—W. D. John—*Chemical Pub.*, 313 p. \$7.50. Industrial and household polishes are here thoroughly discussed, starting with the basic raw materials which compose the various types.

POSTWAR RESEARCH IN MELLON INSTITUTE—*Mellon Inst.*, 38 p., illus., paper, free. The Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Director, this booklet discusses the activities of the Institute during the year 1946, both accomplishments and projected work.

POWDER METALLURGY—Henry H. Hausner—*Chemical Pub.*, 307 p., \$7. The principles of powder metallurgy are explained in the form of tables and graphs. A glossary of terms is included as well as an extensive bibliography. No micrographs to show effects of sintering temperatures and mold pressure, particle size, etc.

PRINCIPLES OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING—T. F. Wall—*Chemical Pub.*, 563 p., \$8.50. Basic principles outlined with emphasis on those relating to both heavy-current and light-current engineering practice.

A PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL SECURITY—Report of the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training—*Govt. Printing*, 448 p., paper, 75 cents. The official plea for universal military training. The dozen pages on 'Possible Future Warfare' are frightening because they are sober.

RETINAL STRUCTURE AND COLOUR VISION—E. N. Willmer—*Cambridge Univ.*, 231 p., illus., \$4.50. A statement of the facts and theories of the phenomena of color vision examined under the present knowledge of physiology for the purpose of stimulating both thought and research in this little understood field.

STEEL CASTINGS—Eric N. Simons—*Chemical Pub.*, 206 p., illus., \$5. A simple presentation of pertinent and practical facts relating to the manufacture, properties, and uses of cast steel.

YOUR FARMHOUSE: CUTOUTS TO HELP IN PLANNING—Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and Extension Service, U.S. Dept. of Agric.—*Govt. Printing*, Misc. Publ. No. 622, 47 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Cutouts of furniture, accessories, etc. to plan a useful living unit.

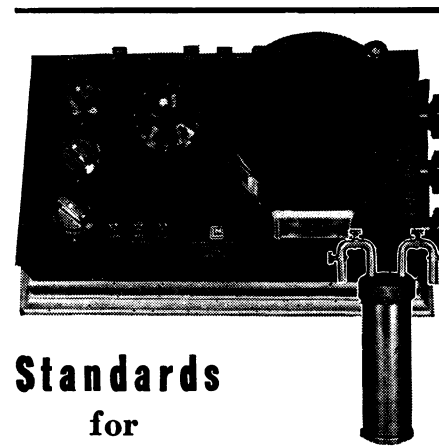
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## OPTICS

### Conducting Light Beam

► A FLEXIBLE "light pipe," to conduct a small beam of light to the exact spot desired, won patent 2,424,064 for R. F. E. Stegeman of Greece, N. Y. A series of disks of lucite or similar plastic is arranged face to face in a flexible tube, with a projecting endpiece of the same material. The disks conduct light from a lamp at the bottom practically as well as if they were a solid rod, yet the device can be bent freely. Patent rights are assigned to Bausch and Lomb Optical Company.

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### Standards for Instrument Calibration

The Type K-2 Potentiometer and the NBS Resistor shown above are two among many L&N instruments which are ideal for production calibrating. They offer high accuracy and dependability, and a convenience of use which can help to make even precision testing a matter of routine.

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