

## Books of the Week

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ATOMIC ARTILLERY—James Stokley—*Gen. Elec. Res. Lab.*, 11 p., illus., paper, free. "Who's Who" among the family of atom-smashers; a recapitulation of information concerning the cyclotron, synchrotron, betatron, synchrocyclotron, electrostatic generator, linear accelerator, etc.

ELEMENTARY MEDICAL PHYSICS—Howard O. Sterns—*Macmillan*, 354 p., illus., \$4.75. As well as containing the necessary fundamentals of physics, this text for nurses and pre-medical students points out the application of the laws of physics to the biological sciences and the operation and equipment of a hospital.

FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES—Lionel A. Walford—*Public Affairs Press*, 134 p., illus., \$5. Up-to-date information concerning the aquatic resources of the United States for conservationist and sportsman; includes tabulations of fish found in different regions and localities.

INDEX TO ASTM STANDARDS 1946—*Am. Soc. for Testing Mat.*, 219 p., paper, free. An adjunct to the Book of Standards to enable the standard specifications and

tests to be readily located.

NATURALISTS' DIRECTORY—*Cassino Press*, 34th ed., 204 p., paper, \$3. Names, addresses and special subjects of study of professional and amateur naturalists of North and South America, a list of periodicals dealing with natural history and a list of museums.

PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS OF FORESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES—*Society of Am. Foresters*, 110 p., \$1.75. A report of the Joint Committee on Forestry of the National Research Council and the Society of American Foresters.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL STRESS ANALYSIS—C. Lipson and W. M. Murray, eds.—*Addison-Wesley*, Vol. IV, No. II, 121 p., illus., \$6.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO: Report on Mountain-Plains Regional Conference of UNESCO, Denver, Colo., May 1947—*U. S. Natl. Comm. for UNESCO*, 39 p., paper, free. Essential features of the Conference, particularly a specific program of action agreed upon by its members.

*Science News Letter*, August 23, 1947

Individual farmers with mechanical genius may be able to meet their own drying problems, especially if their farms are electrified. It may be possible to adapt the hay-driers already installed in many barns to the task of drying corn, or ducts with blowers may be arranged in existing corn-cribs.

Finally, earlier practices may be resorted to, like letting the corn stand in the field until it dries and then hand-picking it after the ground is frozen, or stacking it in shocks until the ears dry. These methods are less economic than modern machine harvesting, but they can serve in a pinch. And the pinch is likely to come this fall.

*Science News Letter*, August 23, 1947

### CHEMISTRY

#### Fabrics from Peanuts

► PEANUTS join the procession of protein sources used for the production of synthetic fibers and fabrics, in patent 2,424,408, issued to Sarah N. McGeoch of Greenford, England, and assigned by her to Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. The peanut globulin is extracted with strong alkali at moderately low temperature.

*Science News Letter*, August 23, 1947

### AGRICULTURE

## Silos May Save Soft Corn

Artificial drying is being contemplated to help save immature corn stopped by the frost. Soft corn is economical feed for beef cattle.

► CORN STOPPED by frost in soft or immature condition can be salvaged by being put into silos, farm researchers point out. Soft ear-corn silage, tried out at the Iowa State Agricultural Experiment Station, was proved to be an economical feed for beef cattle, almost equalling normal shelled corn in value per acre, though not as valuable as regular corn silage.

In the experiments, steers were fed on the soft-corn silage as their main ration for 113 days. This was followed by a finishing period of 30 days on shelled corn and regular silage.

Department of Agriculture scientists, however, are not depending on silos to save the whole of the 200,000,000 bushels threatened with being left in soft condition by early frosts. Artificial drying of corn, hitherto not considered necessary on a large scale at least, is seriously contemplated for the first time in American farm history. A conference of federal and state agricultural engineers has

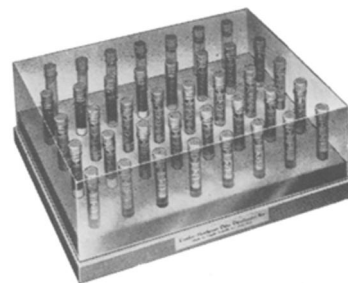
just been held at Purdue University, to bring the best existing "know-how" to bear on the problem.

There are some corn-driers in operation now, but they are for the most part large-scale, stationary machines used only in grain elevators. They will not solve the problem for farmers who wish to store their corn on their own premises. What is needed are mobile corn driers that can be tractor-hauled from farm to farm, or small-scale driers not too costly for individual farmers to own and operate.

A few machines of this type have been patented, and some of them built; but how many of them are ready for operation, or can be put into operation by first frost this year, is still uncertain. It is not even certain whether a machine built for use in one state, say Nebraska, would be useful in a state where moisture conditions are different, like Illinois or Indiana. The wetter corn in those states, subjected to too severe drying conditions, might be spoiled in the process.

## Scientific Odor Control

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