

Books of the Week

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THE ADRENAL CORTEX—R. Gaunt and others—*New York Academy of Sciences*, 170 p., illus., paper, \$3.00. This monograph is concerned largely with new and specialized aspects of the subject.

ANALYTIC GEOMETRY—John J. Corliss, Irwin K. Feinstein, and Howard S. Levin—*Harper*, 370 p., \$3.25. A text for the student of mathematics or engineering.

ANTIBIOTICS DERIVED FROM *Bacillus Polymyxa*—P. H. Long and others—*New York Academy of Sciences*, 160 p., illus., paper, \$2.25. Historical aspects of *Bacillus Polymyxa*—its discovery and development.

ATOMIC ENERGY YEARBOOK—John Tutin, Ed.—*Prentice-Hall*, 237 p., illus., \$3.85. A history, a contemporary account, and a prediction of things to come. Contains not only the technical data on atomic energy but also the social effects upon us.

CALCULUS—Lyman M. Kells—*Prentice-Hall*, 2nd ed., 508 p., illus., \$5.35. An introductory text.

THE CHINA THAT IS TO BE—Kenneth Scott Latourette—*Oregon State System of Higher Education*, 56 p., paper, 75 cents. A short history of the China that has been, the China that is, and the China that is to be.

CONSTRUCTIVE USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY—S. C. Rothmann, Ed.—*Harper*, 258 p., illus., \$3.00. Describes the uses to which the "Peaceful Atom" has already been put and its potentialities. Written from the point of view of

intelligent laymen by leaders in atomic research.

DISPOSAL OF SOUTHERN WAR PLANTS—Fredrick L. Deming and Weldon A. Stein—*National Planning Association*, 74 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Deals with the disposal of federally-financed manufacturing and how it has been adapted to peacetime needs. Data prepared by NPA Committee of the South.

POLIO CAN BE CONQUERED—Alton L. Blakeslee—*Public Affairs Committee*, 31 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Information for the layman and tips for parents.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIALS RELATING TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY—*Division of Publications, Department of State*, 22 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. A bibliography of all publications still available with the exception of those which are of purely historical interest.

U.S.A. MEASURE OF A NATION: A Graphic Presentation of America's Needs and Resources—Thomas R. Carskadon and Rudolph Modley—*Macmillan*, 101 p. illus., paper, \$1.00. Presenting in pictorial graphs statistics on American economy since 1850 and indicating expected developments to 1960.

THE WORD BANK—Sophie Basescu—*Rodale*, 189 p., \$3.00. Will help writers to find just the right word or to produce variety. Divided into sections of related words.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949

MEDICINE

Range of Vision Enlarged

► A LOOK in time saves embarrassment, especially in patients who are blind in one eye and cannot see persons or objects approaching them from their blind side. To help them, a mirror attachment for their glasses has been devised by Dr. Eric Bell, Jr., and associates at the Cleveland Clinic and the Frank E. Bunts Educational Institute in Cleveland.

The mirror has a convex surface and is attached at right angles to the plane of the lens of the glasses at the bridge of the nose. In this way the patient glimpses movement on his blind side and turns his eyes that way, Dr. Bell explained in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (July 23).

These patients were afflicted with hemianopsia, which is a partial or total paralysis of some of the optic nerve fibers, restricting part of the field of vision. They complained that they underwent constant danger and embarrassment because they failed to see moving cars, collided with other pedestrians when looking in shop windows and failed to see food passed to them at the dinner table, Dr. Bell said.

The gadget added to the glasses, Dr. Bell declared, helped to increase the field

of vision in these patients. In a few weeks they were able to interpret what they glimpsed in the mirror and because of its position there was the added advantage that the farther they turned their eyes to the unaffected side, the wider and clearer was the reflection seen in the affected eye.

Dr. Bell believes that this device may be adapted to other visual defects that limit the range of vision.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949

ECOLOGY

Snakes, Rats and Birds Thrive on A-Bomb Site

► WORLD'S first atomic bomb blast, at the Trinity site near Los Alamos, N. Mex., four years ago July 16, apparently has had no ill effect on succeeding generations of animals and the desert vegetation is recapturing the area of the burst's crater.

But scientists are still looking for any possible after effects which might remain in living things in the area, Atomic Energy Commission officials said.

University of California scientists, under contract to the Commission, this summer

are continuing a survey of crater area and "fall-out" region. The fall-out refers to the bits of radioactive material from the blast which gradually settled out of the atmosphere after the explosion.

Mice, rats, rabbits, snakes, lizards and birds in the region have been studied, but they all appeared to be normal and in good health.

Weeds and grasses have appeared where the bomb was exploded, and scientists predict that the crater area will in due time become reestablished with the typical desert vegetation.

Most important scientific studies relating to the blast effects on life are now being carried on at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where a herd of range cattle accidentally exposed to fall-out are now under study. This study will go into several generations and require several more years, but thus far no ill effects from radiation exposure have been reported.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949

Words in Science— PSYCHOSIS-NEUROSIS

► MEDICAL name for the serious mental diseases is psychosis, pronounced sigh-koe-sis (plural psychoses). A person affected by a psychosis is, in some respects at least, out of touch with the world of reality. He often does not realize that he is ill.

A neurosis, pronounced new-roe-sis, is a much milder form of mental disorder that is often popularly called "nervous break-down." The sufferer usually knows very well that he is ill, and continually seeks medical aid to cure him. The neurotic person may be in the grip of abnormal fear, worry, or may feel compelled to repeat certain gestures or acts that have no meaning in terms of the immediate situation, but ordinarily he sees the world around him just about the same as his neighbors do.

Science News Letter, July 30, 1949

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