

# • Books of the Week •

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THE DIAGNOSIS OF PANCREATIC DISEASE—Louis Bauman—*Lippincott*, 74 p., illus., \$5.00. A monograph discussing the pancreatic function tests and their application in the diagnosis of pancreatic disease.

THE EPITOME OF ANDREAS VESALIUS—L. R. Lind, Translator—*Macmillan*, 103 p., illus., \$7.50. The first English translation from the Latin of this famous physician's work.

FREEZE-DRYING: Drying by Sublimation—Earl W. Flosdorf—*Reinhold*, 280 p., illus., \$5.00. A technical book on the principles and practical applications.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTROMAGNETISM—E. G. Cullwick—*Cambridge University Press*, 2nd ed., 327 p., illus., \$4.00. For the student of electrical engineering.

FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ANESTHESIA—Charles L. Burstein—*Macmillan*, 153 p., illus., \$4.00. A monograph. Attempting to answer questions concerning complications that may arise during surgical intervention.

ISOTOPES—Isotopes Division—*United States Atomic Energy Commission*, 45 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, Oak Ridge, Tenn. A catalogue for those interested in the procurement or use of radioisotopes.

MATTER, MIND AND MEANING—Whateley Carington—*Yale University Press*, 257 p., \$3.75. The author tells how he believes the researches in psychical phenomena can be incorporated into a philosophy based on the well-explored and well-established sciences.

NORMALCY TESTS OF PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY TESTS OF RUNOFF ON SMALL WATERSHEDS—W. D. Potter—*Gov't Printing Office*, 24 p., illus., paper, 40 cents. Results

covering 10 years of investigations.

THE RAT IN LABORATORY INVESTIGATION—Edmond J. Farris and John Q. Griffith—*Lippincott*, 2nd ed., 542 p., illus., \$15.00. Contributions from twenty-nine authorities.

SOCIOLOGY—Emory S. Bogardus—*Macmillan*, 3rd ed., 598 p., \$4.50. A beginning college text.

THE SPECTRUM OF NOVA PERSEI 1901—Dean B. McLaughlin—*University of Michigan Observatory*, Vol. IX, No. 3, 71 p., illus., paper, free of charge upon request to publisher, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The first nova to have a detailed and fairly continuous spectroscopic record is here analyzed at considerable length.

SUBJECT HEADINGS FOR AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING LIBRARIES—Committee of the Engineering-Aeronautics Section—*Special Libraries Association*, 245 p., illus., paper, \$4.00.

TOPOGRAPHICAL ANATOMY OF THE DOG—O. Charnock Bradley and Tom Grahame—*Oliver and Boyd* (Macmillan)—5th ed., 319 p., illus., \$7.00. Revised and brought up to date. A textbook intended as a guide for dissection.

TREES: The Yearbook of Agriculture—United States Department of Agriculture—*Gov't Printing Office*, 944 p., illus., \$2.00. A compilation of articles by leading authorities. Beautifully illustrated. Covers shade trees for the home, tree farming, forest care, and the identification of woods.

THE UNITARY PRINCIPLE IN PHYSICS AND BIOLOGY—Lancelot Law Whyte—*Holt*, 162 p., \$3.50. A philosophical work advancing the author's conviction of the unity of nature.

Science News Letter, September 10, 1949

## BIOCHEMISTRY

# Efficiency of Green Leaf

► THE green leaf, the sun-stoked factory which creates food for man and other animals, has an efficiency rating of at least 65% and maybe as much as 85%.

"Conclusive" findings for this rating are reported by Drs. Dean Burk, Sterling Hendricks, Mitchell Korzenovsky, Victor Schocken and Nobelist Otto Warburg in the journal, *SCIENCE* (Sept. 3).

The research in which the green plant's efficiency was rated was done at the U. S. National Cancer Institute in Washington, the U. S. Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., and at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.

Plants, using energy from the sun, combine carbon dioxide from the air and water from the earth to form starch and sugar. In the process, the oxygen is broken out of the water and set free in the atmosphere.

Using new experimental techniques, the scientists have shown, as Dr. Warburg demonstrated by more complicated tech-

niques in 1933, that energy in the form of photons of light can be made to liberate oxygen atoms in the plant's photosynthetic process with nearly perfect efficiency. In other words, the plant does this with full utilization of the energy from the sun and relatively little loss of energy in the form of heat.

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## MEDICINE

# "Climate Room" Will Help Save Expectant Mothers

► SAVING expectant mothers from eclamptic convulsions and death by scientific weather control is the hope of research now going on at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary of the University of Chicago.

A "climate room" where the weather may be varied from crisp coolness at 50

degrees Fahrenheit to the "dripping heat of the tropics" has been built for the research being conducted by Dr. William J. Dieckmann, chief-of-staff and professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The onset of the convulsions and coma of eclampsia in pregnant women is definitely related to hot, humid climate, Dr. Dieckmann found from a statistical study.

Eclampsia, most frequent during the last two and three months of pregnancy and especially during labor, is said to be one of the two greatest threats to safe childbirth and is fatal in 13 out of every 100 cases that develop in expectant mothers.

Sudden changes in weather, although not the cause of the condition, may, Dr. Dieckmann thinks, bring on in susceptible patients changes in water balance, circulation and acid base equilibrium which intensify the high blood pressure, dropsy and kidney disorder until convulsions and coma occur.

The climate room will be used to find out whether the convulsions and coma can be warded off by controlling the weather and also what conditions of temperature and humidity are most helpful to the patient.

Refrigeration for the room, unlike air conditioning, uses a brine solution for securing proper temperature and humidity.

Science News Letter, September 10, 1949

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