

Books of the Week

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ABRAHAM LEVINSON ANNIVERSARY VOLUME: Studies in Pediatrics and Medical History—Solomon R. Kagan, Ed.—*Froben Press*, 365 p., illus., \$6.00. A compilation by leading authorities of material in the fields of pediatrics, pediatric neuropsychiatry and medical history.

ADVANCES IN CARBOHYDRATE CHEMISTRY, Vol. 4—W. W. Pigman and M. L. Wolfrom, Eds.—*Academic*, 378 p., \$7.80. Contributed by 14 specialists in various fields.

AIR POLLUTION IN DONORA, PA.: Epidemiology of the Unusual Smog Episode of October 1948—H. H. Schrenk and others—*Govt. Printing Office*, 173 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. The information needed for preventing such an occurrence as the Donora tragedy in your community.

AMERICAN SPIDERS—Willis J. Gertsch—*Van Nostrand*, 285 p., illus., \$6.95. Describing the life and habits of these interesting creatures. Beautiful photographs, many in color, add to the interest of the book.

APPLIED EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY—Alphonse Chapanis, Wendell R. Garner, Clifford T. Morgan—*Wiley*, 434 p., illus., \$4.50. A textbook with the objective of showing how machines can be more efficient by being designed to suit the psychological make-up of the human operator.

THE BOYLSTON STREET FISHWEIR II: A Study of the Geology, Palaeobotany, and Biology of a Site on Stuart Street in the Back Bay District of Boston—Elso S. Barghoorn and others—*Phillips Academy*, 133 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Intensive study of a site uncovered in the course of construction of the John Hancock Insurance Building.

CHILDBIRTH: Your Questions Answered—Carl Henry Davis and Donita Ferguson—*Harper*, 183 p., \$2.50. Answers many questions which arise in the minds of mothers-to-be.

COMING OF AGE IN SAMOA—Margaret Mead—*New American Library*, 192 p., paper, 35 cents. A study of adolescence and sex in primitive societies originally published by Morrow.

EXCAVATIONS IN NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS—Ripley P. Bullen—*Phillips Academy*, 152 p., 20 pl., paper, \$2.00. Report of the excavation, test and survey of Indian sites in the Shawshen River Valley and neighboring territory.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CALENDAR 1950—Helen Van Pelt Wilson—*Barrows*, 52 p., illus., \$1.00. Flower lovers will take delight in this engagement book with, for each week, a lovely photograph of a different flower arrangement.

GREEN GLORY: The Forests of the World—Richard St. Barbe Baker—*Wyn*, 253 p., illus., \$3.50. A readable guide to the trees that "with the help of all plant life, controls the food supply and life of man and of the animal kingdom."

CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES OF FUNGI—Jackson W. Foster—*Academic*, 648 p., illus., \$9.50. Intended to orientate a non-specialist in the field, this book is timely now that fungi are very much a part of the industrial world and

have gained new importance through the discovery of antibiotics.

HOT-TINNING: Practical Instructions for Hot-Dip Tinning Fabricated Articles and Components—W. E. Hoare—*Tin Research Institute*, 112 p., illus. Free upon request to publisher, 492 West Sixth Ave., Columbus 1, Ohio. A practical manual of British origin.

IRIS FOR EVERY GARDEN—Sydney B. Mitchell—*Barrows*, 224 p., illus., \$3.00. Complete directions and how-to drawings which the amateur needs. Colored photographs included.

JUST FOR TWO COOKBOOK—Lily Haxworth Wallace—*Barrows*, rev. ed., 322 p., \$2.50. Intended for brides, this book includes information on how to furnish your kitchen and suggestions on what to serve.

THE MARKET FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES AND RELATED ASPECTS OF EDUCATION AND INCOME—Seymour E. Harris—*Harvard University Press*, 207 p., illus., \$4.00. Discussing the problem of the college graduate's occupational outlook.

MATHEMATICS DICTIONARY—Glenn James and Robert C. James—*Van Nostrand*, rev. ed., 432 p., illus., \$7.50. Contains terms, symbols, and concepts used in pure and applied mathematics, science, commerce and industry.

METALLIC CREEP AND CREEP RESISTANT ALLOYS—A. H. Sully—*Interscience*, 275 p., \$5.50. Presented from the point of view of both industrial and academic worker.

METALS REFERENCE BOOK—Colin J. Smithells, Ed.—*Interscience*, 734 p., \$13.50. Useful data in the form of tables and diagrams with accompanying bibliographies.

MOBILIZATION OF THE HUMAN BODY—Harvey E. Billig, Jr. and Evelyn Loewendahl—*Stanford University Press*, 65 p., illus., \$2.00. A manual of physical exercises.

MOST OF THE WORLD—Ralph Linton, Ed.—*Columbia University Press*, 917 p., illus., \$5.50. Articles by 14 leading social scientists on non-European lands and their main developments.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY—G. Bryant Bachman—*McGraw-Hill*, 432 p., illus., \$4.25. A text for a full year's course in organic chemistry, especially aimed at those who do not intend to become chemists.

PROGRESS IN METAL PHYSICS I—Bruce Chalmers, Ed.—*Interscience Publishers*, 401 p., illus., \$9.50. Presenting authoritative reviews in specialized aspects of the field that includes both physical metallurgy and metal physics.

RADIO TECHNOLOGY: Telegraphy, Telephony, Television, Transcription, Facsimile—Ernest J. Vogt—*Pitman*, 556 p., illus., \$6.00. Something between an operator's instruction book and engineer's text, this work attempts to provide all material for FCC license examination.

RELIGION AND RACE: BARRIERS TO COLLEGE?—A. C. Ivy and Irwin Ross—*Public Affairs Committee*, 32 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Based on impartial studies made by the American Council on Education and several state agencies.

TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY—J. A. Fleming, Ed., *Dover*, 794 p., illus., \$4.95. Including chapters on magnetic pros-

pecting, radio exploration of outer atmosphere, thunder clouds and their electrical effects and many others. One of the NRC Physics of the Earth series, No. VIII.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1949

ASTRONOMY

Exploding Star Discovered—Nine Years Later

► AN exploding star or nova that flashed and dimmed out nearly a decade ago is the latest astronomical discovery announced to the American Association of Variable Star Observers meeting at Harvard Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.

A Dutch astronomical student, C. J. Van Houten, found the new star on a photograph taken at Leiden Observatory in April, 1940, just before Hitler invaded Holland. Nova Velorum rose to 9th magnitude and then returned to the obscurity of a very faint 16th magnitude or less. The discovery was checked on plates taken by the Harvard Observatory.

The nova is named after its location in the obscure Vela constellation (meaning the sails) which is low on the southern horizon from northern latitudes. Its position is 8 hours 55 minutes right ascension and south 52 degrees declination.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1949

SCIENTIFIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND OTHER PAPERS

By Max Planck



THE last writings of one of the greatest physicists of our time. The essays that make up this volume deal with the problems which, for many decades, beset this great thinker, such as: *True and Fictitious Issues in Science; Meaning and Limit of Exact Science; Physics and Casuality; Natural Sciences and the Religious World, etc.*

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