

Books of the Week

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RAILWAY LITERATURE—*Association of American Railroads*, 4th ed., 48 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C. A list of many of the books and stories that have been written about railroads and railway travel.

THE CASTLE OF IRON: A Science Fantasy Adventure—L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt—*Gnome Press*, 224 p., \$2.50. A science fiction story based on a theory that there were many possible worlds existing side by side in time, separated from us only by limitations of the mind.

COMPOSITION OF FOODS—RAW, PROCESSED, PREPARED—Bernice K. Watt and Annabel L. Merrill—*Gov't. Printing Office*, U. S. Dept. of Ag. Handbook No. 8, 147 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. A handbook presenting three tables of data on the proximate composition of foods.

DESIGN AND OPERATION OF DRAINAGE PUMPING PLANTS—John G. Sutton—*Gov't. Printing Office*, U. S. Dept. of Ag. Tech. Bull. No. 1008, 81 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. A report of a study made of 17 representative drainage pumping plants in the upper Mississippi Valley.

EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED—Educational Policies Commission—*National Education Association* 88 p., paper, 35 cents. Stressing the importance of recognizing and utilizing talent. (See SNL, June 17, p. 374.)

GEOLOGIC DESCRIPTION OF THE MANGANESE DEPOSITS OF CALIFORNIA—Parker D. Trask and others—*State of California, Division of Mines*, Bull. 152, 378 p., illus., \$2.75. A detailed report of the individual manganese deposits in California.

GRAY'S MANUAL OF BOTANY: A Handbook of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of the Central and Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada—Merritt Lyndon Fernald—*American Book Co.*, 8th ed., 1632 p., illus., \$9.50. The first new edition of this reference manual to be published since 1908.

THE HYDROGEN BOMB AND INTERNATIONAL CONTROL: TECHNICAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION—*Joint Committee Staff on Atomic Energy*, 41 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, Washington 25, D.C. Printed for the use of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

INFRARED DETERMINATION OF ORGANIC STRUCTURES—H. M. Randall and others—*Van Nostrand*, 239 p., illus., \$10.00. A monograph on how to determine molecular structure by using infrared spectra. For chemists, biochemists and physicists. There are 354 black and white plates.

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL SLASH PINE STANDS IN THE FLATWOODS OF SOUTH GEORGIA AND NORTH FLORIDA—Robert D. McCulley—*Gov't. Printing Office*, U. S. Dept. of Ag. Circ. No. 845, 57 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. A guide for managers of stands of natural slash pine.

PREJUDICE IN TEXTBOOKS—Maxwell S. Stewart—*Public Affairs Committee*, 31 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. A summary of a study made

by a committee of the American Council on Education on the textbooks and courses of study used in our schools.

THE PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH—Paul Freedman—*Public Affairs Press*, 222 p., illus., \$3.25. A guidebook for people about to embark on scientific research. Such topics as research and society, research and philosophy and general conditions of experimentation are discussed. American edition of an English book, listed SNL, Feb. 11, 1950.

THE REMARKABLE EXPLOITS OF LANCELOT BIGGS: SPACEMAN—Nelson Bond—*Doubleday*, 224 p., \$2.50. The adventures of Lancelot Biggs, mate of the spacelugger Saturn. Fiction, of course.

THE SCHOOLS OF CORPORATE REFORM—Harold Gill Reuschlein—*University of Pittsburgh Press*, 117 p., \$2.50. A study of the pros and cons of corporations.

TODAY'S BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND TOMORROW'S WORLD—Gladys Murphy Graham—*American Association of University Women*, 22 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. A small brochure reviewing children's books written about life in other countries. Some fairy tales are included.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1950

GEOLOGY

Use Natural Gas to Free Liquid Fuels for Military

➤ MORE liquid fuels for military uses are available, without disrupting home and industrial needs for heat and power, with the greatly increased use of natural gas that has come about particularly during the past decade.

Natural gas now supplies nearly 20% of the nation's commercial energy consumption, according to Dr. James J. Parsons of the University of California. He is the author of a timely publication issued by the university entitled *THE GEOGRAPHY OF NATURAL GAS IN THE UNITED STATES*.

For each 42-gallon barrel of crude oil produced in the United States today, the equivalent of an additional 25 gallons comes to the surface as natural gas or its contained liquids, he states. Both net and marketed production of natural gas have more than doubled in less than a decade.

Use of natural gas for fuel purposes in other countries is small in comparison with the tremendous consumption in the United States as a result of this expansion during the past 10 years. This country used some 140 billion cubic meters in 1948, and is using much more now. The only other countries that produced more than one billion cubic meters for use as fuel were the Soviet Union, Canada, Romania, and possibly Venezuela. Moscow is now sup-

plied with natural gas by a 530-mile pipeline from Saratov on the lower Volga.

The United States has ample supplies of natural gas to last for years. In 1948 and again in 1949 new discoveries and revisions of existing reserves were more than double the production of natural gas for the year, Dr. Parsons declares. "It is not widely realized that in equivalent heat units the proved and recoverable reserves of natural gas exceed proved petroleum reserves by a substantial margin."

Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana contain the largest American known reserves. These three states together are responsible for 71% of the total production for 1949. Transportation is entirely by pipeline. Giant pipes are carrying Texas Panhandle gas to the Great Lakes area. Lines from southern Texas are supplying the East as far as New York City and will soon extend into New England.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1950

Radioiodine, chemically iodine 131, has been found valuable in treating one out of four advanced cases of thyroid cancer.

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