

ENGINEERING

More Enter Engineering Schools Than Expected

► THE HUE and cry over the shortage of engineers for defense may have paid off. About 39,500 students enrolled as freshmen in 192 engineering colleges this past fall, it has been learned.

This is 15% above the 1950 enrollment, while all college enrollments dropped 9%. It contrasts with 34,000 new freshmen expected. The figures were reported by Dr. H. H. Armsby of the Office of Education to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Philadelphia.

Estimates of June graduates were low too, Dr. Armsby said. The experts guessed that 38,000 engineers were graduated last June. Final figures show, he said, that actually 42,000 graduated.

Dr. Armsby pointed out that this does not by any means solve the problem of the shortage of engineers, estimated to be in the neighborhood of 60,000, "but it helps."

Science News Letter, January 12, 1952

GENETICS

More Boys Born to Some Blood Groups

► THE FIRST hereditary link with the boy-girl ratio in human births has been found in observations made in Bombay and New York by Dr. L. D. Sanghvi, now connected with Columbia University.

When mother and child are both of the same type O blood group, the percentage of boys born is 60.5 instead of the overall sex ratio of 54.6. When the mother and child are both A blood group the sexes are about evenly divided, with the ratio 49.8. B group infants born to B mothers had a sex ratio of 57.7. These figures were developed in Bombay from tests on 1,330 mothers and babies.

New York tests confirmed the difference in sex ratio, the O groups giving a sex-ratio of 56.3 and the A groups 45.7, he reports to the British journal *NATURE* (Dec. 22).

Science News Letter, January 12, 1952

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Books of the Week

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THE BATTLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH—James Clark Moloney—*Philosophical Library*, 105 p., \$3.50. The author expresses the belief that American mental health could be improved by a more relaxed attitude of mothers toward their children.

CHEMISTRY IN ACTION—George M. Rawlins and Alden H. Struble—*Heath*, 2d ed., 575 p., illus., \$3.60. A short high school text. Abundantly illustrated.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORA OF SOUTH AMERICA: Studies on Andean Compositae II, Studies in South American Plants III—Jose Cuatrecasas—*Chicago Natural History Museum*, 113 p., illus., paper, \$1.50.

EROSION STUDIES ON THE SCHOHARIE WATERSHED, NEW YORK—Irvin C. Reigner—*Northeastern Forest Experiment Station*, 17 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 102 Motors Ave., Upper Darby, Pa. Results of a study to find the cause of New York's water shortage in 1949-50. It cannot be blamed on excessive erosion or sedimentation. Some sort of land-use program is needed, however, to regulate the flow of water into the reservoir.

EXPLORING ATOMIC ENERGY—John Lewellen—*Science Research Associates*, 40 p., illus., paper, 40 cents. Boys and girls are introduced to the bomb and its control, peacetime uses of atomic energy, and some of the basic facts behind atomic fission.

THE GRASSLAND LIVESTOCK HANDBOOK—*Joint Committee on Grassland Farming*, 48 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Showing farmers how to take advantage of this economical form of animal nutrition.

HANDBOOK OF BASIC MICROTÉCHNIQUE—Peter Gray—*Blakiston*, 141 p., illus., \$3.00. Telling the student how to prepare animal or plant material for study under the microscope.

INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOLS UPON THE UNCATALYZED REACTION BETWEEN RESORCINOL AND FORMALDEHYDE—R. A. V. Raff and B. H. Silverman—*Mellon Institute*, 7 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Reprinted from the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*.

MAKING A LIVING IN THE MARBIAL VALLEY (Haiti)—Alfred Metraux with E. Berrouet and Dr. and Mrs. Jean Comhaire-Sylvain—*UNESCO*, 217 p., illus., paper, free upon request to Education Clearing House, UNESCO, 19, Avenue Kleber, Paris XVI. Results of an anthropological survey preparatory to UNESCO's fundamental education pilot project. Marbial is an area which has seen better days, the decay being due to erosion, small holdings and over-population.

MODERN ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY: Volume I, the P-Q-R-S-T-U Complex—Eugene Lepeschkin—*Williams and Wilkins*, 598 p., illus., \$12.00. Of use to the greatly increased number of physicians with electrocardiographic equipment and little if any knowledge of its proper use.

PRINCIPLES OF QUANTUM MECHANICS: Nonrelativistic Wave Mechanics with Illustrative Ap-

plications—William V. Houston—*McGraw-Hill*, 288 p., \$6.00. To provide the student with a formulation of quantum mechanics such that he can make applications for himself and can understand published work.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON CANCER DIAGNOSTIC TESTS—National Advisory Cancer Council—*Govt. Printing Office*, Public Health Service Publication No. 96, 91 p., paper, 30 cents. Providing authoritative information on a controversial subject.

RANGE-FINDING TOXICITY DATA; List IV—Henry F. Smyth, Jr., Charles P. Carpenter, and Carrol S. Weil—*Mellon Institute*, 4 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Data for evaluation of the hazard in handling certain materials in industry.

RELATIONSHIPS OF CERTAIN GENERA OF FUNGUS GNATS OF THE FAMILY MYCETOPHILIDAE—F. R. Shaw and M. M. Shaw—*Smithsonian*, 22 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. A continuation of a preliminary investigation of the possible value of thoracic sclerites in determining the relationships of certain insects.

SOME PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF AMERICAN BEECH—Benson H. Paul and John T. Drow—*Northeastern Forest Experiment station*, 17 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 102 Motors Avenue, Upper Darby, Pa. Information gathered with a view to putting beech to the uses it deserves.

SYMPOSIUM ON LOCAL DIVERSITY IN IROQUOIS CULTURE—William N. Fenton, Ed.—*Govt. Printing Office*, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 149, 187 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. The papers, by a number of authors, are based on field work in the present communities.

TOTEM AND TABOO: Some Points of Agreement Between the Mental Lives of Savages and Neurotics—Sigmund Freud, translation by James Strachey—*Norton*, 172 p., \$3.00. A new translation of a Freudian classic.

TOXICOLOGY OF TWO BUTOXYPOLYPROPYLENE GLYCOL FLY REPELLENTS—Charles P. Carpenter, Frances H. Critchfield, John H. Nair and C. Boyd Shaffer—*Mellon Institute*, 9 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Information for those handling and applying formulations of the compounds.

THE WORKS OF MAN—Lisle March Phillipps—*Philosophical Library*, rev. ed., 330 p., illus., \$4.75. A British art critic writes this "bird's eye view" of the great creative epochs of art not from the aesthetic standpoint but as an expression of human life and character.

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The fringes on the so-called fringe-footed sand lizard of southwestern deserts aid the animal in running in loose sand.

Penguins, birds of the Antarctic, have folds of skin between the legs in which the egg is carried until hatched; if left on the ice the eggs would freeze and never hatch.