

Books of the Week

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE MULTI-TEST CLINIC OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—Walter E. Boek—*Health Information Foundation*, 267 p., paper, \$1.50. This clinic was set up and moved to 23 convenient locations such as department stores and factories. In 15 minutes tests were given for some nine diseases, and about 6,000 persons were tested in a month.

ANALYTIC GEOMETRY—W. K. Morrill—*International Textbook Company*, 383 p., \$3.50. An introductory text.

CAMPFIRE ADVENTURE STORIES—Allan A. Macfarlan—*Association Press*, 225 p., illus., \$2.95. Stories of wildlife, woodcraft and Indian lore for boys and girls.

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION 1950-51—*Govt. Printing Office*, 31 p., paper, 20 cents. As Dr. Conant says in his foreword, the report is by necessity a report of progress in formulating plans.

GENERAL EDUCATION IN SCIENCE—I. Bernard Cohen and Fletcher G. Watson, Eds.—*Harvard University Press*, 217 p., \$4.00. Distinguished scientists discuss the place of science in the education of non-scientists.

GIANTS OF GEOLOGY—Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton—*Doubleday*, rev. ed., 333 p., illus., \$3.50. Biographies of men who have contributed importantly to geology from Aristotle to Chamberlin.

HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK 1951—Oliver E. Byrd—*Stanford University Press*, 236 p., \$3.50. Digesting and summarizing current health literature.

HUTCHINSON'S POCKET TECHNICAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA—L. E. C. Hughes and Jean P. Bremer—*Hutchinson's*, 182 p., Approx., \$1.05. Giving explanations of what is known on the subjects listed rather than mere dictionary definitions of the words.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE—H. H. Schrenk—*Mellon Institute*, 2 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

MEDICAL MILESTONES—Henry J. L. Marriott—*Williams and Wilkins*, 293 p., illus., \$3.50. A physician writes this book for laymen on major medical advances.

MELLON INSTITUTE RESEARCH LABORATORIES—H. S. Coleman—*Mellon Institute*, 13 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Describing the facilities of this institute.

PAPER AND PAPERBOARD: Characteristics, Nomenclature and Significance of Tests, October, 1951—ASTM Committee D-6—*American Society for Testing Materials*, 126 p., paper, \$2.50. Of interest to workers in the paper industry and purchasers of paper.

THE PRINCIPLES OF RELATIVITY: A Collection of original Memoirs on the Special and General Theory of Relativity—H. A. Lorentz, A. Einstein, H. Minkowski and H. Weyl—*Dover*, 216 p., paper, \$1.50, cloth \$3.50. A collection of papers written over a

number of years. An inexpensive re-issue of a translation first published in 1923.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND BERKELEY SYMPOSIUM ON MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY—Jerzy Neyman, Ed.—*University of California Press*, 666 p., illus., \$11.00. The application of mathematical statistics to problems of various fields, from astronomy and genetics to traffic engineering, are discussed by specialists in those branches.

RESEARCH ON CHEMICAL CONTROL OF FUNGI IN GREEN LUMBER 1940-51—Arthur F. Verrall and Paul V. Mook—*Govt. Printing Office*, USDA Technical Bulletin No. 1046 60 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Reporting studies made in an attempt to improve chemical control of stain, mold, and decay.

STRING LUG THE FOX—David Stephen—*Little, Brown*, 174 p., illus., \$2.75. A naturalist writes this tale of the life of a fox.

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MEDICINE

Warn Against Measles

► THIS IS a big year for measles in many parts of the country. The disease seems to go in cycles, with low and high years. Communities that had a lot of measles last year should be spared this year, since presumably most of the susceptible youngsters got the disease last year and are now immune.

The disease can be dangerous. It is particularly hard on children under three years and on older children who have or are just recovering from some other disease. The danger to the little children and the frail ones can be averted by protective measles globulin. This material from blood contains the anti-measles substances built up during an attack of the disease.

Since most grown-ups in the United States have had measles, the blood now being collected through the National Blood Program has plenty of the anti-measles substances. Scientists have found a way of separating this from the rest of the blood and doctors are using it to protect children.

Anti-measles globulin is also given to older children to lessen the severity of the attack, but not to ward it off completely. Children who are strong enough to stand a mild attack in this way get a chance to build up their own anti-measles substances for protection against future exposure to the disease.

Since doctors can now do so much to cut the danger of measles, parents more than ever should be alert to the signs of the disease and call the doctor promptly. The early signs are like those of common

PHYSICS

Pure Hydrogen From Rare Metal Cylinder

► A METHOD of getting pure hydrogen gas under high pressure, at least on a small scale, has been developed by Prof. H. B. Wahlin, University of Wisconsin physicist.

While investigating how atomic hydrogen is transmitted through some metals, which is a well-known phenomenon, Dr. Wahlin made a palladium metal tube the cathode in an ordinary sulfuric acid electrolytic bath. He found that hydrogen passes through the metal into the tube in appreciable quantity at ordinary room temperature. Heretofore heat applied to a palladium tube has been used to separate out the hydrogen by diffusion through the metal.

The gas went through the tube and built up a pressure of 700 pounds per square inch, and the possible pressure would be several thousand pounds. In his report to the American Institute of Physics' JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS (Dec., 1951), Dr. Wahlin predicts other uses will be found.

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cold at its height with runny nose, sneezing cough and watery, reddened eyes. It is at this stage, before the pink or red spots of the rash appear, that the disease begins to be catching. It continues to be catching while the rash lasts. The child or grown-up with these symptoms should be kept away from other children, especially the babies under three years.

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BIOCHEMISTRY

Anti-Thyroid Drug Prevents Convulsions

► DISCOVERY THAT an anti-thyroid drug will prevent epilepsy-like convulsions in mice is announced by Dr. Emelia M. Vicari of the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Me.

The drug is 6n-propylthiouracil. Dr. Vicari tried it in mice that get convulsions from sounds, such as the ringing of an ordinary doorbell attached to the galvanized iron wash tub the mice are in. Usually 100% of mice of this strain get convulsions from such sounds.

When the anti-thyroid drug was fed the mice for nine days before the age of 30 days, the age at which they are most susceptible to sound, 68% of the animals had no seizures and 32% had very mild, short attacks when the bell was rung.

Details of the experiments are reported in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE (Dec.)

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