

Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review since last week's issue are listed. For convenient purchase of any U. S. books in print, send a remittance to cover retail price (postage will be paid) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ART OF NAVIGATION: An Outline and Background of the Methods Employed by Navigators for Finding Their Way Around the Seas—Louis Allen Harding—*William-Frederick Press*, 142 p., illus., \$3.75. Combining the romantic story of navigation with a useful handbook for navigators.

GENERAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE: A Committee Report by Members of the Faculties of Andover, Exeter, Lawrenceville, Harvard, Princeton and Yale—Alan R. Blackmer, Chairman—*Harvard University Press*, 142 p., \$2.00. Report of a study intended to aid in the integration of the teaching in the school with that in college.

GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF ROCKS—L. E. Spock—*Harper*, 256 p., illus., \$4.00. A simple undergraduate text on petrology that presents the basic core of information about rocks needed by the beginning student.

HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK 1952—Oliver E. Byrd, Ed.—*Stanford University Press and Oxford University Press*, 232 p., \$3.50. A wealth of information compactly presented to answer your questions about personal hygiene and public health.

INTRODUCTION TO EVOLUTION—Paul Amos Moody—*Harper*, 475 p., illus., \$6.00. A truly elementary text in non-technical language.

LA VENTA, TABASCO, A STUDY OF OLMEC CERAMICS AND ART—Philip Drucker—*Govt. Printing Office*, Smithsonian Bulletin 153, 257 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. Telling of pottery frag-

ments and ancient art objects taken from the muck of a swamp in Tabasco.

LET'S HEAR IT!: Confessions of a Hard of Hearing Doctor—George W. Frankel—*Stratford House*, 63 p., \$1.00. Telling how a physician met the many problems imposed by borderline impairment of hearing, and made the most of his difficulty by becoming a hearing specialist.

LINEAR ALGEBRA AND PROJECTIVE GEOMETRY—Reinhold Baer—*Academic*, 318 p., \$6.50. A text on advanced mathematics presupposing a minimum of previous knowledge.

PHYSICAL GEMMOLOGY—Sir James Walton—*Pitman*, 304 p., illus., \$6.00. The aim of this volume is to gather from scattered sources and present in non-technical language a detailed account of the scientific principles of mineralogy. It includes a brief explanation of atomic theory that will facilitate the understanding of crystallography.

THE RIDDLE OF CANCER—Charles Oberling, translated by William H. Woglom—*Yale University Press and Oxford University Press*, rev. ed., 238 p., \$5.00. Addressed especially to medical students and to physicians who are not specialists. The author is the director of the Institute of Cancer Research of the University of Paris.

SEISMIC PROSPECTING FOR OIL—C. Hewitt Dix—*Harper*, 414 p., illus., \$7.50. A practical book for engineers and students on how to find oil.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1953

MEDICINE

Change for Asthmatic Child

► THE CHILD with asthma may need to be sent away from home, though this drastic step probably should not be taken until treatment at home has failed.

In four out of five cases, however, separation of an asthmatic child from his home environment has contributed to complete or substantial relief, Dr. Daniel Kraus of Denver has reported to the American Medical Association. Dr. Kraus is consultant in allergy to the National Home for Jewish Children and assistant in medicine at the University of Colorado Medical Center.

"Since chronic intractable asthma is attended by profound emotional, economic and social problems, the chances of providing relief for the child's illness are heightened when the child is separated from these emotional, economic and social problems," he said.

"Psychiatric studies centered about the children at the National Home strongly indicate that the fear of 'mother rejection' also creates an unfavorable emotional climate which can bring on severe asthmatic attacks in children.

"The severely asthmatic child who has been separated from the pressures of his environment and sent to the National Home for treatment almost upon arrival shows no asthmatic symptoms."

Dr. Kraus said that 82.5% of the children who were considered "treatment failures" despite the most competent care of physicians and specialists in their home communities have received complete or substantial relief from their asthmatic conditions while under treatment at the National Home.

"Results from questionnaires sent to the parents of discharged children show that 75% of the children maintain complete or substantial freedom from asthmatic symptoms when returned to their home environment," he added.

The Home's program is based on a broad approach with emphasis equally applied to the general medical care, and allergic and emotional problems of the child, he said. The medical program is under the supervision of a medical director, assisted by a pediatrician, an allergist and a psychiatrist.

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RADIO

Saturday, Jan. 10, 1953, 3:15-3:30 p.m., EST
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Henry W. Kumm, assistant director of research, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, discusses "Progress in Polio Protection."

ENTOMOLOGY

Mothproofing Now By Insecticide in Rinse

► THE U. S. Department of Agriculture has just developed a new insecticide that lets the housewife mothproof her washable woollens at the same time she runs them through the washing machine.

Called EQ-53, the solution contains DDT and other chemicals which knock out the wool-hungry larvae of clothes moths and carpet beetles. Two teaspoons of the solution added to the wash water in average-sized washing machines will protect a pound of woolen blankets and sweaters for more than a year.

The new insecticide should be commercially available by next spring and should not cost much.

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PHYSICS

Radar Spots Ice Crystals in Clouds

► A BETTER way of finding ice crystals in clouds high up and far away has been described by two British scientists. Ice crystals are important in the formation of rain.

By use of a new radar system, it may be possible to study how a cloud converts itself from an ordinary type to a rain- or snow-producing type. It might even be possible to predict whether a cloud, still miles away, will produce rain or will pass by keeping its moisture intact.

The method is called cross-polarization of the radar transmitting and receiving instruments. The plane of the polarization for reception is made perpendicular to the plane of the polarization for the transmission of the radar signals.

The scientists are Ian C. Browne of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England, and N. P. Robinson of the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Great Malvern, Worcs.

The ice crystals are found in a "melting band," a phenomenon previously observed on radar screens when the signals are directed against certain clouds. The method, the two scientists say, permits detecting the presence, and perhaps determining the shape, of small quantities of ice in the clouds. On occasion, a melting band which could not be detected by ordinary radar methods, has been detected by the new methods. Description of the method appears in *Nature* (Dec. 20, 1952).

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