

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. book 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.

AN ANALYSIS OF SOME PHYSICAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SHORTTAIL SHREW (*BLARINA BREVICAUDA*) IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE LOWER PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN—William O. Pruitt, Jr.—*University of Michigan Press*, 39 p., illus., paper, 60 cents. The author has come to believe that animals which winter in a region usually covered by an extended polar air mass have a more stable bioclimate than do the same kinds farther south.

COPPER FUNGICIDE—Dean S. Hubbell—*Mellon Institute*, 4 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Describing tests on plants.

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE SLIDEFILMS—Mary F. Horkheimer and John W. Diffor, Eds.—*Educators Progress Service*, 5th ed., 185 p., paper, \$4.00. This new edition lists 609 titles. Of these 177 are new since the last edition.

FOUR CENTURIES OF EUROPEAN JEWELLRY—Ernie Bradford—*Philosophical Library*, 226 p., illus., \$12.00. An historical survey of jewelry from the Renaissance to today's use of new precious metals, the various techniques used in preparing and mounting jewels and precious stones, and the processes of making jewelry.

FREEDOM AND PLENTY: OURS TO SAVE—Wilfrid S. Bronson—*Harcourt, Brace*, 124 p., illus., \$2.95. Telling children what they can do to spare our natural resources.

FRIEDRICH FROEBEL AND ENGLISH EDUCATION—Evelyn Lawrence, Ed.—*Philosophical Library*, 248 p., illus., \$5.00. Essays on the man and the influence of his beliefs and work on the primary school systems of today.

FROM ART TO SCIENCE IN ENVELOPE MANUFACTURING—P. B. Davidson—*Mellon Institute*, 3 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Discussing the application of the science of high polymers to paper.

GOVERNMENT OWNED INVENTIONS AVAILABLE FOR LICENSE—Office of the Chairman, Government Patents Board—*Govt. Printing Office*, 167 p., paper, \$1.00. Listing 3,658 government-owned inventions which are available to the public for industrial use. They may also serve as a fertile source of new ideas. The patents are arranged by fields, and the patent number is included in each case.

INTRODUCTION TO ELECTRON MICROSCOPY—Cecil E. Hall—*McGraw-Hill*, 451 p., illus., \$9.00. An introductory text, for the formal student and for the self-instructed, based on the course at MIT.

MICROBES AT WORK—Millicent E. Selsam—*Morrow*, 95 p., illus., \$2.00. To tell children about microbes, especially the kinds that are useful to man.

PRACTICAL TAXIDERMISTRY: A Working Guide—John W. Moyer—*Ronald*, 126 p., illus., \$3.00. Intended especially for the amateur or beginner. Instructions are intended to be easy to follow, even for the novice.

PROGRESS IN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL—W. C. L. Hemeon—*Mellon Institute*, 9 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Telling what has already been accomplished and plans for the future.

A PROPOSED SEALED CIRCULAR COAL-REFUSE PILE—William L. Nelson and Ernst P. Hall—*Mellon Institute*, 5 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Mine operators are now growing concerned with the need to pile refuse in such a manner as to prevent spontaneous ignition.

REFINING OF OILS AND FATS FOR EDIBLE PURPOSES—A. J. C. Andersen—*Academic Press*, 204 p., illus., \$7.00. Some animal fats, such as suet and lard and some vegetable oils, when rendered by appropriate methods, can be used for food without further treatment, but in many cases they must be further refined to remove impurities or traces of toxic materials.

SALT RISING BREAD AND PRACTICAL COMPARISONS WITH OTHER BREADS—R. N. Kohman—*Mellon Institute*, 1 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. This kind of bread, exceptionally fine grained and almost cake-like in quality, is made without yeast. Temperature control and other conditions for baking are given.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AS IT PROCEEDS IN MELLON INSTITUTE 1952-1953—Edward R. Weidlein—*Mellon Institute*, 52 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to the publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. During the year, the Institute's expenditures for pure and applied research amounted to \$4,099,405. The projects are here reviewed.

SMALL PARTICLE STATISTICS: An Account of Statistical Methods for the Investigation of Finely Divided Materials—G. Herdan with a guide to the experimental design of particle size determinations by M. L. Smith—*Elsevier*, 520 p., \$12.00. "This 'region of lost dimensions,'" the author explains, "has, to some extent a statistics of its own." The particles treated are those in the sieve and sub-sieve range.

THE TROPICAL WORLD: Its Social and Economic Conditions and Its Future Status—Pierre Gourou translated by E. D. Laborde—*Longmans, Green*, 156 p., illus., \$3.50. Dealing with population density, ill health and other problems of lands having mean temperatures of at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit and plenty of rain.

WHAT'S ENGINEERING?—*Stevens Institute of Technology*, 16 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to the publisher, Fifth and Hudson Sts., Hoboken, N. J. Designed to answer questions about the work engineers do, and the scholastic attainments and special aptitudes that indicate whether a student should seek admission to an engineering college.

ZOO BABIES—William Bridges—*Morrow*, 95 p., illus., \$2.50. Whether you are old or young you will enjoy these endearing baby animals portrayed in photographs and charming text.

Science News Letter, August 22, 1953

METEOROLOGY

Congress Seeks Advice on Rain-Making Legislation

► GOVERNMENT CONTROL of rain making is a long way off. However, the U. S. now has a law setting up a committee to study the feasibility of weather modification. It is called the Federal Weather Control Committee, and President Eisenhower signed legislation setting it up on Aug. 13.

Introduced by Sen. Francis Case (R.-S.D.) and others, the act sets up an 11-man Congressional weather modification advisory committee, six from government departments and five from private life. The committee would be required to report periodically to Congress, by way of the President, with a final report due no later than 1956.

Western ranchers and farmers are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on efforts to make it rain. Although many of them believe this money is well spent, the Weather Bureau, backed by close to 100 years of records and research, can usually tell them that it would have rained without the rain maker's efforts. And many proponents of rain making state that they can only make rain when weather conditions are such that it probably would have rained anyway.

The weather advisory committee, under the terms of the bill, is to make a study of artificial weather control and the status of scientific experiments in order to come up with recommendations as to what control legislation might be needed.

The committee is given power to subpoena records, thus forcing disclosure of commercial rain makers' scientific data.

Government agencies represented on the committee will be the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Agriculture, Interior, and Health, Education and Welfare, and the National Science Foundation.

The five individuals on the committee are to be selected by the President from among outstanding leaders in science, agriculture and business.

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