

# 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.

**APPLIED ATOMIC ENERGY**—K. Fearnside, E. W. Jones and E. N. Shaw—*Philosophical Library*, 156 p., illus., \$4.75. Presenting the background knowledge of nuclear physics necessary for an understanding of modern applications of atomic energy to peaceful purposes.

**ASTROPHYSICS: Nuclear Transformations, Stellar Interiors and Nebulae**—Lawrence H. Aller—*Ronald*, 291 p., illus., \$12.00. Stressing not merely the results of astrophysical research but also the methods by which they are obtained.

**BEYOND THE GERM THEORY: The Roles of Deprivation and Stress in Health and Disease**—Iago Galdston, Ed.—*Health Education Council*, A New York Academy of Medicine Book, 182 p., illus., \$4.00. Not negating the importance of the germ as a cause of disease, but showing that it is not the germ alone, but the body's fitness to withstand the germ which determines health and sickness.

**DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES**—J. A. Hadfield—*Penguin*, 244 p., paper, 65 cents. The author says that dreams concern themselves with those problems of our lives which in the daytime we find too much for us. He has developed his own theory of the origin and nature of dreams, based on 36 years of study.

**THE ECZEMAS: A Symposium by Ten Authors**—L. J. A. Loewenthal, Ed.—*Livingstone* (Williams & Wilkins), 267 p., illus., \$7.50. This symposium was planned to contain material of interest to the general practitioner, the pediatrician, the allergist and other specialists.

**ETHICS**—P. H. Nowell-Smith—*Penguin*, 324 p., paper, 85 cents. No attempt is made to give solutions to everyday problems, but to aid in decision making through giving better understanding of the words we use.

**THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS**—Ronald M. Berndt and Catherine H. Berndt—*Philosophical Library*, 144 p., illus., \$4.75. Since the coming of the European to Australia, the aborigines have been pushed back into the interior and have been reduced in numbers. Now they are largely forgotten. This book is by an anthropology team of the University of Sydney.

**THE FLEMISH MASTERS**—Horace Shipp—*Philosophical Library*, 128 p., illus., \$6.00. Twenty-four full color plates and 16 in black and white make this readable book about the great artists of Flanders very beautiful.

**FORM IN ENGINEERING DESIGN: The Study of Appearance During Design and Development**—J. Beresford-Evans—*Oxford University Press*, 96

p., illus., \$1.70. Discussing the application of such principles as proportion to the design of a variety of structures, from bridges to faucets.

**THE FORT MONMOUTH SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS AUGUST 1953-APRIL 1954**—Scientists' Committee on Loyalty and Security—*Atomic Scientists of Chicago*, 49 p., paper, 75 cents. Over 120 charges are summarized and the cases against six individuals are cited in detail. The probable long-range effect of these investigations on the laboratory's research and development program is evaluated.

**FRENCH INSTITUTIONS: Values and Politics**—Saul K. Padover with the collaboration of Francois Goguel, Louis Rosenstock-Franck and Eric Weil—*Stanford University Press*, Hoover Institute Studies, Series E Institutions, No. 2, 102 p., illus., paper, \$1.50. Depicting some of the ideas and ideals which influence French life and politics.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF TRANSISTORS**—Leonard M. Krugman—*Rider*, 140 p., illus., paper, \$2.70. Intended as a practical book for the technician and amateur.

**HOW TO LOCATE AND ELIMINATE RADIO & TV INTERFERENCE**—Fred D. Rowe—*Rider*, 122 p., illus., paper, \$1.80. Each TV channel has a band width of 6,000 kilocycles, as contrasted with each broadcast channel which is only 10 kilocycles wide. For this reason, the television receiver is much more susceptible to interference than is a radio, the author says.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**—Samuel C. Brownstein and Mitchel Weiner, edited by Stanley H. Kaplan—*Barron's Educational Series*, 221 p., \$3.95. Including advice on the selection of a college and a compilation of entrance requirements.

**HUNTER'S CHOICE: True Stories of African Adventure**—Alexander Lake—*Doubleday*, 254 p., illus., \$3.50. Fast-moving tales of animals, men and the jungle.

**IMPAIRMENT STUDY, 1951**—*Society of Actuaries*, 300 p., \$7.50. A study of the mortality among life insurance policyholders known to have had physical impairments at the time the insurance was issued to them. Longevity has improved materially for persons with such impairments.

**MERCHANT SHIPS: BRITISH BUILT: Vessels of 300 Tons Gross and Over Completed in 1953**—Introduction and section reviews by A. C. Hardy and Laurence Dunn—*Adlard Coles in association with George G. Harrap (John De Graff)*, 168 p., illus., \$5.00. A register of new ships.

**NEW BIOLOGY 16**—M. L. Johnson, Michael Abercrombie and G. E. Fogg, Eds.—*Penguin*, 133 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Among the articles are four on the origin of life and one on two living fossils.

**THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS OF FLIGHT**—Visualized by Bernt Balchen and told to Erik Bergaust with foreword by James H. Doolittle—*Harper*, 214 p., illus., \$3.00. The visualizer foresees small orbital rockets circling endlessly around the earth, and even gigantic space stations, which may become a reality within the next ten years. He is a Norwegian flyer and Arctic explorer.

**OUR CHANGING WEATHER**—Carroll Lane Fenton and Mildred Adams Fenton—*Doubleday*,

110 p., illus., \$2.50. Describing for young people and also their elders how weather is formed. Beautiful photographs add to the interest.

**A PHILOSOPHICAL STUDY OF THE HUMAN MIND**—Joseph Barrell—*Philosophical Library*, 575 p., illus., \$6.00. The author explains that he has borrowed truths from the various schools of psychology; the amalgamation of the truths so gleaned is here presented.

**PROBLEMS OF AGING: Transactions of the Fifteenth Conference, January 20, 21 and 22, 1953, Princeton, N. J.**—Nathan W. Shock, Ed.—*Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation*, 213 p., illus., \$4.25. Papers given at one of a series of conferences where experts from various specialties exchange views and findings. Here the problem of aging is discussed with regard to what happens at the cellular level.

**PROBLEMS OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD: Transactions of the Seventh Conference, March 23 and 24, 1953, New York, N. Y.**—Milton J. E. Senn, Ed.—*Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation*, 196 p., \$2.75. Discussing a variety of problems such as those developing from early mother-child separation and the modern way of leaving the newborn with the mother.

**PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS IN MENTAL HOSPITALS: Proceedings of the Fifth Mental Hospital Institute**—Daniel Blain and Stella B. Hanau, Eds.—*American Psychiatric Association Mental Hospital Service*, 204 p., paper, \$2.50. Spectacular crimes committed by veterans recently emerged from mental hospitals have alarmed the public. It is interesting to learn here that the crime rate of veterans who have been in one large hospital is one-third that of the general population.

**PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILD**—Gerald H. J. Pearson—*Norton*, 357 p., \$5.00. Psychoanalysis has many implications for education as well as therapy. Here they are

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**THE PSYCHIATRIC INTERVIEW**—Harry Stack Sullivan, edited by Helen Swick Perry and Mary Ladd Gawel with introduction by Otto Allen Will—*Norton*, 246 p., \$4.50. A posthumous book based on two lecture series given in the Washington School of Psychiatry on the conduct of interviews. This is not a practical handbook of suggestions on how to get people to talk freely, but rather a distillation of Dr. Sullivan's thinking on the basis of which you can form your own suggestions.

**PSYCHOLOGY, THE NURSE AND THE PATIENT**—Doris M. Odlum—*Philosophical Library*, 2d ed., 168 p., \$4.75. A book for nurses on some of the human problems that arise in their profession.

**A REPORT ON TAIWAN'S POPULATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION**—George W. Barclay—*Office of Population Research, Princeton University*, 120 p., illus., paper, \$2.50. The author spent nearly a year on Taiwan as demographic consultant to the Commission. The population growth is now tremendous, and seems likely to continue high, due to appreciation of large families and enforced ignorance of contraception.

**RESECTION-RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HIP: Arthroplasty With an Acrylic Prosthesis**—Jean Judet and others, K. I. Nissen, Ed.—*Livingstone (Williams & Wilkins)*, 151 p., illus., \$7.00. This book, originally written in French, describes the method designed by the senior author and his brother.

**RESIDUAL STRESSES IN METALS AND METAL CONSTRUCTION**—William R. Osgood, Ed.—*Reinhold*, prepared for the Ship Structure Committee under the direction of the Committee on Residual Stresses, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 363 p., illus., \$10.00. Gathering together reports of research of value to persons concerned with why welded ships fail.

**SCIENCE AND THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING**—J. Robert Oppenheimer—*Simon and Schuster*, 120 p., \$2.75. The author, eminent nuclear physicist, stresses that the scientist's search for truth is based on communication with other people, on agreement as to results of observation and experiment. (See p. 405.)

**TECHNICIAN'S GUIDE TO TV PICTURE TUBES**—Ira Remer—*Rider*, 154 p., illus., paper, \$2.40. A simple guide for the inexperienced repair man and a handy reference book for the "old timer."  
Science News Letter, June 26, 1954

## GOLF: Your LEFT SHOULDER makes the amazing difference!

One of the most startling discoveries to emerge from wide research in the golf swing is that your game literally hinges on your left shoulder!

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Poison Sumac

➤ **MOST PEOPLE**, when they hear for the first time that poison ivy is really a sumac, are inclined to be a little incredulous.

The plant does not really look much like a sumac. But it takes no argument in the case of poison sumac. This venomous shrub of the bogs is hard to distinguish, at first glance, from its harmless cousin of the uplands.

It is very easy to get poisoned with poison ivy; that happens on Sunday school picnics and the mildest of country walks, for poison ivy is everywhere. Poison sumac is reserved

### AERONAUTICS

## Astronauts Really Realists

➤ **YOU MAY** laugh at the man who longs for the day when he will flit from planet to planet, but an Air Force official considers the starry-eyed astronaut a real realist.

Theodore von Karman, chairman of the U. S. Air Force scientific advisory board, says the era of Buck Rogers may be reasonably close at hand.

He says that nuclear rockets may have to be developed first to give a space ship the speed it needs to escape from the earth's gravity. Otherwise, it may take no more effort to create a manned space rocket than it took to develop today's supersonic aircraft from the Wright brothers' plane of 1903, he speculates.

Scientific and engineering societies should welcome the serious-minded astronaut, and should open their technical journals to his papers discussing the problems of space travel, Dr. von Karman believes. After all, he says, the astronomical and interplanetary societies of today are much more scientific than the aeronautical societies were in the late 19th century.

One topic for publication would be how to return safely to the earth, or how to land on another planet. The return to earth is a real puzzler—air friction would be so high as the rocket zooms into the earth's atmosphere that all known materials would be heated beyond their endurance.

for slightly harder souls who go in for hiking or nature-study activities that may require wet feet, because poison sumac is a creature of the bog-edges, and does not grow in upland woods at all.

This is perhaps fortunate, for though fewer persons are susceptible to it, the luckless ones it does affect get a much worse "dose," usually, than poison ivy is able to inflict.

Poison sumac is easy enough to identify although it looks much like ordinary sumac, except that its bark is a pallid gray.

The chief stigmata by which the poisonous sumac may be separated are the fruits. Last year's fruit-clusters persist on both kinds, as a rule, so that they may be looked for at any season. Poison sumac fruits are lax clusters of pallid white berries, hanging down.

Common sumac fruits are tiny dark brown or sooty things that look a good deal like coarse coffee grounds, and their dense clusters stand stiffly erect.

Furthermore, the two plants grow in totally different kinds of terrain. Poison sumac is a shrub of lowlands, preferring the soggy soil of acid-water bogs. Common sumac is a plant of the well-drained upland soils.

A third sumac, the harmless staghorn sumac, grows in wet places, but it can be told from the poisonous species by the sooty fuzz on its upper branches, and by its fruits, which are like those of the common sumac.

Science News Letter, June 26, 1954

Dr. von Karman, a leading figure in aerodynamics, points out that more research must be conducted in the dynamics and physics of rarefied, ionized gases. Research also is needed in the exploration of the highest altitude reachable by sounding rockets, the effects of radiation on humans and materials, navigation problems and the development of unmanned rockets.

Dr. von Karman's views on future space activities form the concluding part of his book, "Aerodynamics" (see SNL, June 12, p. 380).

Science News Letter, June 26, 1954

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