

brought together with the philosophy of the author as an aid to teachers and parents.

**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. Odium—*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 fit 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.

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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).

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