

# 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.

**ANIMALS IN ARMOR**—Clarence J. Hylander—*Macmillan*, 203 p., illus., \$3.00. A book for young naturalists on turtles, lizards and snakes.

**THE BAFUT BEAGLES**—Gerald M. Durrell—*Viking*, 238 p., illus., \$3.75. A British naturalist writes of his collecting expedition to the Cameroons.

**THE BOYS' FIRST BOOK OF RADIO AND ELECTRONICS**—Alfred Morgan—*Scribner's*, 229 p., illus., \$2.75. Intended to give boys and girls a better understanding of radio and the many electronic devices in common use today.

**COIN COLLECTORS' HANDBOOK**—Fred Reinfeld—*Sterling*, 127 p., illus., \$2.50. For the hobbyist.

**THE CONCISE USAGE AND ABUSAGE: A Modern Guide to Good English**—Eric Partridge—*Philosophical Library*, 219 p., \$3.50. This book, originally written for a British audience, has been emended to make it suitable for use in the United States.

**THE EPICS OF EVEREST**—Leonard Wibberley—*Ariel Books*, 244 p., illus., \$3.25. An account for children of all the exciting attempts to climb Mount Everest.

**FEEDBACK CONTROL SYSTEMS**—Gilbert Howard Fett—*Prentice-Hall*, 361 p., illus., \$10.00. For engineers and advanced students.

**ICE FLOES AND FLAMING WATER: A True Adventure in Melville Bay**—Peter Freuchen, translated by Johan Hambro—*Messner*, 242 p., \$3.95. The "Vagrant Viking" tells for the first time the story of a rescue mission to save a group of whale hunters stranded by Greenland's treacherous ice.

**OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENTS IN KANSAS DURING 1953**—W. A. Ver Wiebe and others—*University of Kansas*, State Geological Survey of Kansas, Bulletin 107, 204 p., illus., paper, 25 cents.

**OPTICS: Lectures on Theoretical Physics, Vol. IV**—Arnold Sommerfeld, translated by Otto Laporte and Peter A. Moldauer—*Academic*, 383 p., illus., \$6.80. Assuming previous knowledge of Maxwell's equations.

**PET DOG BOOKLETS**—*All-Pets (Crown)*, 64 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. A series of 23 booklets of pet owner information for the person with one dog. They cover: The Aging Dog, C. E. DeCamp; Beagles, A. D. Holcombe; Boston Terriers, Mrs. Charles D. Cline; Boxers, Mrs. P. N. Davis; Bulldogs, A. R. and G. E. Forbush; Cocker Spaniels, Bart King; Collies, Ted Kat-

tell; Chihuahuas, Mrs. T. E. Thurmer; Dachshunds, Mr. and Mrs. L. Horswell; Doberman Pinschers, Len Carey; Springer Spaniels, Mrs. J. Henneberry; Fox Terriers, Tilly Beyer; German Shepherds, E. C. M. Schalk; Great Danes, Mary Johnston and Peggy Seitz; Setters, Jack Baird; Labrador Retrievers, F. Griscom; Pekingese, Mrs. G. A. Krieger; Pomeranians, Viva L. Rickett; Poodles, Arlene Erlanger; Scottish Terriers, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Sneath; Shetland Sheepdogs, Mark Taynton; Weimaraniers, Jack Baird; Lovable Mongrel, Maxwell Riddle.

**THE POCKET BOOK MAGAZINE, No. 1**—Franklin Watts and Joan Poser, Eds.—*Pocket Books*, 274 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. The director of SCIENCE SERVICE contributes a science quiz to this new occasional magazine in pocket book form. There are also articles on psychiatry, human embryology, etc.

**SATURABLE TRANSFORMERS AS GATES**—Burnham Moffat—*Mellon Institute*, 4 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Applications include magnetic drum read-out systems for computers.

**SCIENCE MILESTONES: The Story of the Epic Scientific Achievements and the Men Who Made Them Possible**—*Windsor Press*, 312 p., illus., \$5.00. Pointing out certain scientific "milestones" that have marked man's advancement along the road of human knowledge and progress. Einstein's theory of relativity is explained by the late Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, first director of SCIENCE SERVICE.

**SIR WILLIAM PETTY: Portrait of a Genius**—E. Strauss—*Free Press*, 260 p., illus., \$5.00. The life of a 17th century associate of Pepys. His distinctive spelling has been modified in the interest of intelligibility.

**STREAMS, LAKES, PONDS**—Robert E. Coker—*University of North Carolina Press*, 327 p., illus., \$6.00. Giving the basic facts on water and the life in it for conservationists, sanitary engineers as well as those who may be more concerned with the esthetic or sports value of our streams and lakes.

**THE STUDY OF PERSONALITY: A Book of Readings**—Howard Brand, Ed.—*Wiley*, 581 p., illus., \$6.00. Selected journal articles by leading scientists bringing together material from the fields of anthropology, sociology and psychology.

**SUN, SEA AND SKY: Weather in Our World and in Our Lives**—Irving P. Krick and Roscoe Fleming—*Lippincott*, 248 p., illus., \$3.95. A newspaper writer collaborates with a meteorolo-

gist who specializes in cloud seeding to produce this book on weather.

**THE SUN, THE SEA, AND TOMORROW: Potential Sources of Food, Energy and Minerals from the Sea**—F. G. Walton Smith and Henry Chapin—*Scribner's*, 210 p., illus., \$3.50. An evaluation of what has been done to date and what can be done to meet the problem of growing population.

Science News Letter, October 30, 1954

## OPHTHALMOLOGY

### Radiation Treatment For Eye Disease

► **FIRST STEPS** toward developing a method of using nuclear radiation for treating cancer and other diseases of the eye have been taken at the U. S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Tex., Col. Victor A. Byrnes said at the meeting of the International Congress of Ophthalmology in New York.

Besides cancer of the eyes, A-bomb radiant energy will remedy retinal detachment, Col. Byrnes predicted. It will do this through its coagulating effect which will hold the detached retina in place better, perhaps, than the surgeon's stitching now used to do this.

The idea for this use of atomic energy came from studies of atomic burns of the eyes in which Capt. D. V. L. Brown and Drs. H. W. Rose and Paul A. Cibis collaborated.

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## ENTOMOLOGY

### Insect Damage to Crops Ends With Coming of Fall

► **THE INSECT** crop-damaging season has just about ended.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's economic insect survey section reported that the harvesting of crops and the advent of frost have brought a halt to active infestation of crops by damage-causing insects.

Summaries of the damage done this year and forecasts of the possible conditions the nation's farmers might face next year are now being prepared by the section.

In June of this year, the Agriculture Department published the average losses sustained by the nation from 1942-1951 as a result of infestations by more than the 10,000 species of insects that the Department regards as public enemies.

The figures showed that the nation incurred a loss of more than \$14,000,000,000 in this 10-year period, or an amount equal to the 1953 U. S. Air Force budget.

Attacks on fruit and nut crops accounted for a \$656,999,000 loss; attacks on vegetable and ornamental plant crops accounted for a \$6,648,016,000 loss, and attacks on forage and field crops accounted for a \$7,397,868,000 loss.

Total annual losses to crops, livestock, forests, fabrics, households and buildings from all insects have been estimated at \$3,600,000,000.

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## OPTICAL STAR FINDER



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