

STUDIES IN MATHEMATICS AND MECHANICS—Garrett Birkhoff, Gustav Kuerti and Gabor Szegö—*Academic Press*, 353 p., illus., \$9.00. A group of invited papers collected to celebrate the 70th birthday of Prof. Richard von Mises.

THE TEACHER AND MENTAL HEALTH—Prepared by the National Institute of Mental Health—*Govt. Printing Office*, Public Health Service Publication, No. 385, 20 p., illus., paper, 15 cents. Suggesting that teachers, along with parents, can assist in fostering the healthy emotional development of the child.

TREASURY OF PHILOSOPHY—Dagobert D. Runes, Ed.—*Philosophical Library*, 1280 p., \$15.00. An alphabetical list of important philosophers, with biographical sketches and representative excerpts from their work.

TREATISE ON INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY: Part D, Protista 3—Raymond C. Moore, Ed.—*Geological Society of America and University of Kansas Press*, 195 p., illus., \$3.00. Including a survey of the protozoa Radiolaria and Tintinnina.

WHEN MINDS GO WRONG: The Truth About Our Mentally Ill and Their Care in Mental Hospitals—John Maurice Grimes—*Devin-Adair*, 246 p., illus., \$3.50. Revised edition for the public of a report privately printed in 1951.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1954

PUBLIC SAFETY

Poison Gas Danger

➤ YOU MAY be in danger of a kind of poison gas attack in your home, the American Medical Association warned at its clinical meeting in Miami, Fla.

The war gas phosgene, for example, can be produced by the action of heat on carbon tetrachloride found in many homes. Fire extinguishers containing this chemical should not be used for fires in enclosed areas, although they are safe when used where there is sufficient circulating air.

Enough fumes can accumulate in a closed room from wood alcohol or benzol to become explosive if a spark reaches them, the AMA warning said.

Carbon tetrachloride is used in dry cleaning and in many paint and varnish removers as well as in fire extinguishers. Housewives are warned that the action of dousing material to be cleaned into a pan of

the liquid creates a heavy concentration of vapor in the breathing zone with potentially serious consequences.

Constant exposure to air containing one part of carbon tetrachloride vapor to 1,000 parts of air can cause chronic poisoning and damage to the liver and kidneys.

Fumes may accumulate dangerously when paint or varnish removers are spread on large surfaces.

“Do-it-yourself” activities are leading to more frequent use of various solvents in the home. This use, doctors at the meeting were told, should be recognized as a possible but often unsuspected source of disability or illness.

The AMA’s warning was presented in an exhibit by Dr. C. M. Peterson and Clark D. Bridges of its council on industrial health.

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