

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.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: Vol. XI, No. 44—*British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 108 p., illus., paper, seven shillings and sixpence. Including papers delivered at the Oxford meeting of the Association.

ADVANCES IN GEOPHYSICS: Volume 2—H. E. Landsberg, Ed.—*Academic*, 286 p., illus., \$7.50. Another volume cutting widely across various subfields of the science from weather forecasting to radioactive dating.

ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS: Robert S. Shankland—*Macmillan*, 529 p., illus., \$7.75. With some emphasis on the historical point of view but "not slavishly chronological."

BARN SWALLOW: Paul McCutcheon Sears—*Holiday House*, 45 p., illus., \$2.00. A book for children telling of the life of a pleasing bird.

BRITISH MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS: An Introductory Work, With Full Descriptions and Figures of Over 200 Species, and Keys for the Identification of All Except the Very Rare Species—E. Vernon Watson with a foreword by Paul Richards—*Cambridge University Press*, 419 p., illus., \$8.50. A book for the beginner as well as a reference work for more advanced students.

CONCISE SCIENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA: G. E. Speck, Ed.—*Thomas Y. Crowell*, 256 p., illus., \$3.50. Defining terms and describing facts in those branches of science which are considered most interesting to the general public.

FLOODS: William G. Hoyt and Walter B. Langbein—*Princeton University Press*, 469 p., illus., \$7.50. Scientists of the U. S. Geological Survey give you information about the causes of floods and how they can be prevented, adapted to, or controlled.

GARDENING HANDBOOK: T. H. Everett—*Arco*, rev. ed., 144 p., illus., \$2.00. For the home gardener.

THE GATES OF THE SEA: Philippe Diolé, translated from the French by Alan Ross—*Messner*, 176 p., illus., \$4.50. Record of an amphibious journey around the coasts of Sicily, made as much under the water as on it and halted by continual diving.

MAMMALS: A Guide to Familiar American Species—Herbert S. Zim and Donald F. Hoffmeister—*Simon and Schuster*, 160 p., illus., paper \$1.00, cloth \$1.95. A pocket size book beautifully illustrated in color to help you to identify the wild animals you may see during a hike.

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PRACTICAL HORTICULTURE: James S. Shoemaker and Benjamin J. E. Teskey—*Wiley*, 374 p., illus., \$4.20. A text for courses in vocational agriculture and a reference guide for gardeners.

SCIENCE AND THE HUMAN IMAGINATION: Aspects of the History and Logic of Physical Science—Mary B. Hesse—*Philosophical Library*, 171 p., \$3.75. Based on a series of lectures and a dissertation at the University of London.

SHIPS OF THE CUNARD LINE: Frank E. Dodman—*Adlard Coles (John de Graff)*, 144 p., illus., \$2.50. Photographs, silhouettes, and data to aid in recognition of this line of ships.

SHIPS OF THE P & O: Captain A. G. Course—*Adlard Coles (John de Graff)*, 79 p., illus., \$1.50. To help the ship enthusiasts to identify ships of the Peninsular and Oriental line.

SHOPPING HABITS AND TRAVEL PATTERNS: A Supplement to Special Report 11 "Parking as a Factor in Business"—Alan M. Voorhees and others—*Highway Research Board*, Special Report 11-B, 21 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. The average shopper does not behave at random but follows a fairly distinct pattern.

A STUDY OF ABORTION IN PRIMITIVE SOCIETIES: A Typological, Distributional, and Dynamic Analysis of the Prevention of Birth in 400 Preindustrial Societies—George Devereux—*Julian*, 394 p., \$6.50. Adding another "inch to the bridge which, one day, will inevitably link the social and the psychological sciences."

TELEVISION TUBE LOCATION GUIDE: Enables Preliminary Diagnosis Without Chassis Removal—*Howard W. Sams Co.*, 196 charts, illus., paper, \$2.00. Providing information for the television service technician.

WHEELS: A Pictorial History—Edwin Tunis—*World Publishing Company*, 96 p., illus. with drawings by the author, \$3.95. The story of wheels from the ancient Egyptian sledge on rollers to the latest transcontinental bus told in text and drawings.

Science News Letter, April 30, 1955

AERONAUTICS

"Ducted Fan" Jet Engine Proposed for Airlines

➤ A "DUCTED fan" jet engine, with its increased efficiency at speeds of about 500 miles an hour, may be the power plant for a high performance commercial jet.

Such an engine would not only save fuel, but is expected to be far quieter than conventional jets, which are among the noisiest machines man has yet devised.

These advantages were outlined by George F. Wislicenus, director of Pennsylvania State University's Garfield Thomas Water Tunnel, at a meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers in New York.

The ducted fan engine, which as yet has been used only on experimental planes, is a modification of the conventional turbojet. The difference is that not all of the air entering the nose is used to burn fuel. A portion of the intake is drawn off before it reaches the combustion chamber, then rein-

roduced into the main flow near the exhaust. This extra air provides added thrust for the engine.

Mr. Wislicenus confined his discussion to flights at about 500 miles an hour at a 30,000-foot altitude and a 3,000-mile range, the conditions airlines are interested in.

Science News Letter, April 30, 1955

BIOLOGY

Damp Cold Not So Bad When Felt Undressed

➤ WHETHER OR not you have clothes on determines whether you feel colder on a cold damp day than on a cold dry day.

Studies showing this were reported at the meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in San Francisco by a Canadian research team.

Men tested without clothes on felt colder when the humidity was low than when it was high, and their bodies responded more by shivering and by other physiological changes. The investigators explain this unexpected result by suggesting that the human skin takes up moisture from the air and so affects the nerve endings of the skin, which are responsible for our sensations of cold and for the reactions of the body.

The scientists were Dr. Alan C. Burton, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont., Flight Lieut. W. R. Leach, Royal Canadian Air Force, and Dr. R. A. Snyder of the Defence Research Medical Laboratories. The investigation was financed by the Defence Research Board of Canada.

Science News Letter, April 30, 1955

CHEMISTRY

Woolens Protected From Moths With Dieldrin

➤ WOOLENS, PACKED away this spring for use next winter, can be protected from moth attacks with dieldrin.

Dieldrin has been found to be an effective mothproofing agent that outlasts other insecticides, such as D.D.T., even after repeated washings and dry-cleanings. Results of experiments conducted by M. Lipson and R. J. Hope of the Wool Textile Research Laboratory in Geelong, Australia, and reported in London, show that dieldrin-treated wool kills moth larvae.

A 0.05% dieldrin treatment gave mothproof protection that persisted after the article had been washed one and one-half hours and dry cleaned one hour.

A powerful household insecticide, dieldrin is effective too in killing ants, silverfish, cockroaches and fleas. It is not recommended for a general household spray in the United States, however, but only for spot treatments.

In a report to *Nature* (April 2), the Australian scientists also said that preliminary studies indicate that dieldrin is effective against carpet beetles.

Science News Letter, April 30, 1955