

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 A.R.R.L. ANTENNA BOOK — *American Radio Relay League*, 7th ed., 344 p., illus., paper, \$2.00 plus postage. For the radio "ham."

FIVE HUNDRED ANSWERS TO BEE QUESTIONS: Pertaining to Bee Behavior, Colony Management, Products of Bees, and Handling and Marketing of Honey—Walter Barth—*A. I. Root Company*, 3d ed., 96 p., illus., paper, 95 cents. Useful information for beekeepers.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY — J. F. Kirkaldy—*Philosophical Library*, 327 p., illus., \$6.00. Providing a balanced introduction to this science.

GETTING THE MOST FROM RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING: With a Section on New Product Development—Robert M. Bowie and others—*American Management Association*, Manufacturing Series, Number 217, 59 p., illus., paper, \$1.75. Discussing important problems of administration and organization.

HOW TO BUILD PATIOS, TERRACES, BARBECUES, WALKS, FENCES, AWNINGS, GATES—Louis Hochman—*Arco*, 144 p., illus., \$2.00. Ideas and directions for the do-it-yourself enthusiast.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND HANDLE ABNORMAL PEOPLE: A Manual for the Police Officer — Robert A. Matthews and Loyd W. Rowland — *National Association for Mental Health*, 48 p., illus., paper, 65 cents. Intended for police officers, this booklet is good reading for anyone, since anyone is likely some day to meet and have to handle a person who is mentally ill.

MACHINES OF PLENTY: Pioneering in American Agriculture—Stewart H. Holbrook—*Macmillan*, 246 p., illus., \$4.00. A readable book about the contributions of individuals to the modernization of agriculture.

MERCHANT SHIPS—WORLD BUILT: Vessels of 1000 Tons Gross and Over Completed in 1954 —Compiled by Publishers with an introduction by A. C. Hardy—*Adlard Coles (John de Graff)*, 263 p., illus., \$5.00. Reporting for ship enthusiasts ships actually completed. West Germany has become the second largest shipbuilder in the world.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF RESEARCH —Paul R. Beall, Chairman of Program Committee—*New York University Press*, 108 p., illus., paper, \$4.00. The task of running a research laboratory these days may be all tangled up with questions of security and clearance.

SAFETY IN THE HOME WORKSHOP—*Popular Mechanics Press*, 15 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. To help prevent the do-it-yourself hobbyist from doing himself harm.

SCIENCE TEACHING IDEAS II — Abraham Raskin, Ed.—*National Science Teachers Association*, 47 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Science teachers exchange ideas.

THE UNDERWATER NATURALIST—Pierre de Latil, translated from the French by Edward Fitzgerald — *Houghton Mifflin*, 275 p., illus., \$3.50. The author as a boy wanted a book about the fish he caught at Cap d'Antibes. He never could find such a book so now he has written it. Beautifully illustrated with underwater photographs.

VEHICLE CLIMBING LANES—T. S. Huff and others — *Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 104, 33 p., illus., paper, 60 cents. Providing a separate lane for the truck slowly chugging uphill reduces a traffic hazard for other drivers. (See SNL, July 9, p. 21.)

Science News Letter, July 16, 1955

RADIO

Saturday, July 23, 1955, 5:00-5:15 p.m. EDT

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Jerome Namias, chief of extended forecast section, U. S. Weather Bureau, will discuss "Long-range Weather Forecasting."

ENTOMOLOGY

Termites Eat Out Homes On Pitcairn Island

► TERMITES, ORIGINALLY housed in a church organ sent by a well-wisher, are eating Pitcairn Islanders out of their homes.

Pitcairn Island is the historic home of the Bounty Mutineers.

The organ was sent to the islanders, a Seventh Day Adventist community, from New Zealand. The termites it contained were previously unknown on the island.

Pastor N. A. Ferris, who recently spent two years on the island, said "the termites are literally eating the islanders out of house and home. Nothing can be done to combat their ravages."

Mr. Ferris, who has spent 28 years in missionary work in the Pacific Islands, said Pitcairners were congenial and hospitable people. They are descendants of Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutineers who settled there in 1790.

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The cause of *multiple sclerosis*, a disease of young adults, is as elusive now as it was in 1835 when the disease was first observed and described.

BOTANY

Control Leaf Falling

► A PLANT growth hormone called auxin controls the shedding of leaves in the fall and the dropping of fruit when it is ripe.

This theory, of considerable practical significance to agriculture, was suggested by Drs. Fredrick Addicott, R. S. Lynch and

H. R. Carns of the botany department at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Experiments have shown that when auxin content is higher in the leaf than in the stem, a condition characteristic of healthy, mature plants, the leaf remains firmly attached to the plant.

When the leaf ages, the growth hormone becomes equally distributed between leaf and stem, and the leaf is ready to fall. A higher auxin level in the stem accelerates defoliation. The same auxin mechanism regulates fruit drop, according to the scientists.

Dr. Addicott and his associates have been able to accelerate leaf fall in cotton and beans by applying the growth hormone to the stem. This suggests an important application in improving techniques of defoliating cotton for machine harvesting, as well as in improving methods of regulating fruit drop.

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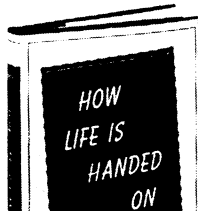
"Explains Things As Parents Wish They Could . . ."

"A wonderful book . . . to explain reproductive systems of man and beast. The style . . . is easy and direct. Illustrations are informative and ample. Explains things as most parents wish they could, and leaves little to the child's imagination."—*Journal of American Medical Assn.*

"The entire process of reproduction, together with the attitudes inculcated by tradition, education, and social standards, is described clearly for children and younger adolescents."—*Science News Letter*.

HOW LIFE IS HANDED ON by Cyril Bibby

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