

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.

ADAPTIVE HUMAN FERTILITY—Paul S. Henshaw—*McGraw-Hill*, 322 p., illus., \$5.50. A contribution toward solution of the problem of man's increasing numbers in relation to his needs.

ADVENTURING WITH BEEBE—Selections from the writings of William Beebe—*Duell, Sloan and Pearce*, and *Little, Brown*, 283 p., illus., \$4.50. These accounts cover more than 40 years and range from Bermuda to British Guiana and the Pearl Islands, from the tops of lofty jungle trees to a half mile beneath the sea.

BRAZING MANUAL—Committee on Brazing and Soldering, American Welding Society—*Reinhold*, 193 p., illus., \$4.75. Not only clarifying terminology, but describing step-by-step basic processes.

A CHILD'S BOOK OF WILD BIRDS—Alexander Seidel and Dean Amadon—*Maxton*, 30 p., illus., 59 cents. This beautiful book has lovely illustrations, most in color, of the more exotic wild birds.

THE ESTIMATION OF HEALTH HAZARDS FROM AIR POLLUTION—W. C. L. Hemeon—*Mellon Institute*, 6 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Fatalities in smogs, it is concluded, are due to irritation of the respiratory tract rather than to poisoning.

FROGS OF SOUTHEASTERN BRAZIL—Doris M. Cochran—*Govt. Printing Office*, U. S. National Museum Bulletin 206, 423 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. To the author's collection of over 1,500 specimens, mostly frogs, Dr. Adolpho Lutz generously added over 1,100.

THE ELEMENTS OF THE THEORY OF REAL FUNCTIONS: Being Notes of Lectures Delivered in the University of Cambridge—J. E. Littlewood—*Dover*, 3d ed., 71 p., cloth \$2.85, paper \$1.35. The subject matter is very abstract, but philosophy as such is excluded.

HIGHWAY TO THE NORTH—Frank Illingworth—*Philosophical Library*, 293 p., illus., \$7.50. An English writer tells of his visit to Britain's northernmost frontier.

AN INTRODUCTORY LABORATORY COURSE IN CHEMISTRY—Howard L. Ritter—*Wiley*, 119 p. plus data sheets, illus., paper, ring binder, \$2.50. Following closely the author's textbook.

KNOW YOUR PACKAGING MATERIALS: Foils, Paper, Films, Boxboard, Foam Plastics—Nicholas A. Cooke and others—*American Management Association*, Packaging Series Number 46,

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123 p., paper, \$1.75. Eighteen papers included in this publication describe a wide variety of materials, some of them quite new.

MANPOWER NEEDS IN HIGHWAY ENGINEERING—M. Earl Campbell and others—*Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 106, 30 p., illus., paper, 60 cents. Here, as in other branches of engineering, shortages are serious.

MANUAL OF ELEMENTARY PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY—R. D. Brown and T. A. O'Donnell—*Melbourne University Press (Cambridge University Press)*, 185 p., illus., \$4.75. Intended for students taking first-year chemistry at the university level.

NOTES ON PERUVIAN COEREBIDAE AND THRAUPIDAE—James Bond—*Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, Proceedings, 21 p., paper, 65 cents.

THE REAL PROJECTIVE PLANE—H. S. M. Coxeter—*Cambridge University Press*, 2d ed., 226 p., \$4.75. An introductory university textbook on projective geometry.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY: With Special Supplements on U. S. Bilateral Agreements and the U.N. Geneva Conference—Oliver Townsend and J. Robert Barlow, Eds.—*Atomic Industrial Forum*, 151 p., illus., paper, \$5.00. Answers to a questionnaire sent over the world in an attempt to obtain a complete survey of non-military uses.

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MEDICINE

Ulcer Vacation Time

➤ **STOMACH ULCER** sufferers should be having less trouble with their ulcers from now until the end of October, if they have just had their summer vacations.

The worst time for trouble with an ulcer is due at the end of a Friday afternoon in December.

The reason is to be found in the influence of rest and fatigue on ulcers, according to Dr. R. A. Jamieson of the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He has surveyed the number of cases of perforated peptic ulcers during the period 1944-1953. Although the figures are for Western Scotland, they bear out the theory that incidence of perforations is related to rest and fatigue, as follows:

1. Perforation, with its sudden, excruciating pain and danger of peritonitis and shock, is relatively uncommon in August, September and October and "unduly common" in December. In West Scotland, July is vacation month, and many do extra work in December to have extra money for Christmas.

2. Perforation is least common on Sundays and becomes progressively commoner throughout the week, reaching a maximum on Fridays.

3. Perforation is relatively uncommon during the night. Its incidence increases

NUTRITION

Potato Cooking Quality Predicted by Tests

➤ **HOUSEWIVES** MAY soon be choosing the best spuds for just the kind of cooking, from baking to mashing, they want to do from labels on the potato sack.

U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists have found that potato cooking qualities can be predicted by laboratory tests. Specific gravity, the weight of potatoes compared to the weight of the same volume of water, was found the simplest and most practical test of cooking quality.

Amounts of dry matter, alcohol insoluble solids and starch are also good indicators, they reported.

In the experiments, different varieties of potatoes, each grown in several localities and in different years, were boiled, mashed and baked to determine their cooking quality. Then raw potatoes were analyzed, and the findings were matched with how they turned out in the kitchen.

Eating qualities of the potatoes varied considerably, the scientists found. The same varieties of potatoes showed different ratings when grown in different localities, and the same kind of potatoes grown in different years showed marked variation in cooking characteristics.

Length of storage also affects eating quality. The longer the potatoes are stored, the less mealy and the more soggy they become.

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to a minor peak at the end of the morning, to a major peak at the end of the afternoon, and again to a minor peak in the late evening.

Dr. Jamieson reports in the *British Medical Journal* (July 23).

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ASTRONOMY

Bright Comet Spotted In Early Morning Sky

➤ **A BRIGHT COMET**, visible through good binoculars or a small telescope, has been discovered in the constellation of Orion, visible low in the southeast sky in the early morning.

The comet is seventh magnitude, too faint to be seen with the naked eye. It was first spotted on July 29 by the Japanese astronomer Honda of Imperial University's Kwasan Observatory, Kyoto, Harvard College Observatory has reported.

When discovered, the comet's position was four hours, 49.2 minutes in right ascension and minus 2 degrees, 33 minutes in declination. Its motion is plus two minutes, four seconds in right ascension and plus one degree, six seconds in declination.

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