

# 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.

**ANTI-COMPOSITION TABLES FOR CARBON COMPOUNDS** (CH, CHO, CHS & CHOS)—Compiled by H. H. Hatt, T. Pearcey and A. Z. Szumer—*Cambridge University Press*, 191 p., \$4.00. To help chemists recognize and analyze unknown organic chemical compounds of high molecular weight and to express them as formulas.

**BASIC PROCESSES OF GASEOUS ELECTRONICS**—Leonard B. Loeb—*University of California Press*, 1012 p., illus., \$13.50. Planned not only as a textbook, but also for the benefit of the engineer or physicist who is not familiar with the field of gaseous electronics.

**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING COST ESTIMATION**—Robert S. Aries and Robert D. Newton—*McGraw-Hill*, 263 p., illus., \$6.00. Intended to help the engineer give management the economic perspective on a given project.

**THE CHEMISTRY AND FERTILITY OF SEA WATERS**—H. W. Harvey—*Cambridge University Press*, 224 p., illus., \$5.50. A study of the sea as a setting for plant and animal life, showing the effect plants and animals have upon sea water composition.

**CHILDREN CAN MAKE IT: Experience in the World of Materials**—*Association for Childhood Education International*, Reprint Service Bulletin No. 28, 56 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. Objects that children in elementary school would find fascinating, as well as educational, to make for themselves.

**CLIMATES IN MINIATURE: A Study of Micro-Climates and Environment**—T. Bedford Franklin—*Philosophical Library*, 137 p., illus., \$3.75. Telling how beasts, birds, plants and even humans react to their local climates and environments.

**CURRENT PRACTICE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT OF PERSONNEL**—M. J. Doohar, Ed.—*American Management Association*, Research Report No. 26, 35 p., paper, \$1.75. Setting forth certain fundamental principles of management development of interest to executives concerned with this aspect of management education.

**DEFEAT AT SEA: The Struggle and Eventual Destruction of the German Navy, 1939-1945**—C. D. Bekker—*Holt*, 222 p., illus., \$3.95. Written by a former German naval officer.

**ELECTRO-TECHNOLOGY: Basic Theory and Circuit Calculations for Electrical Engineers**—M. G. Say—*Philosophical Library*, 167 p., illus., \$6.00. Giving in concentrated form a guide to the handling of circuit problems for two-terminal and four-terminal cases, and for balanced and unbalanced three-phase cases.

**EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONICS FOR THE BEGINNER: Part I Electronic Components and Fundamental Circuitry**—Lewis G. Blevins and Leonard R. Crow—*Universal Scientific Co.*, 360 p., illus., paper, \$3.50. Exercises dealing with the fundamentals of electronic components and electronic circuits.

**EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY: A Series of Broadcast Talks on Recent Research**—B. A. Farrell, Ed.—*Philosophical Library*, 66 p., \$2.75. To acquaint the reader with some recent work by psychologists.

**FIFTY YEARS A SURGEON**—Robert T. Morris—*New American Library*, 237 p., paper, 35 cents.

Autobiography of a surgeon. Originally published by E. P. Dutton in 1935.

**HEALTHFUL LIVING**—Harold S. Diehl with foreword by Morris Fishbein—*McGraw-Hill*, 4th ed., 529 p., illus., \$6.00. Resistance against disease requires healthful living, which means adequate nutrition, rest, exercise, cleanliness, and freedom from mental stress.

**THE HOME GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIA**—*Philosophical Library*, New ed., 366 p., illus., \$6.00. A reference book for the gardener who wishes to grow flowers, vegetables or fruits.

**HOW TO DRAW IN 3RD DIMENSION**—David Gordon—*William-Frederick*, 14 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Simplified instructions for the beginner.

**THE METALLURGY OF ZIRCONIUM**—Benjamin Lustman and Frank Kerze Jr., Eds.—*McGraw-Hill*, 776 p., illus., \$10.00. Presenting an account of the occurrence, reduction, refining, properties and uses of zirconium and zirconium alloys.

**OUTDOOR HAZARDS: Real and Fancied**—Mary V. Hood—*Macmillan*, 242 p., illus., \$3.95. A guide to outdoor safety, telling how to distinguish between genuine hazards of the outdoors and imaginary ones that can be dispelled by understanding their nature.

**PALEOZOIC AND MESOZOIC ROCKS OF GROS VENTRE, TETON, HOBACK, AND SNAKE RIVER RANGES, WYOMING**—Harold R. Wanless, Ralph L. Belknap, and Helen Foster—*Geological Society of America*, Memoir 63, 90 p., illus., \$2.75. The rocks discussed here display a remarkably long and nearly complete stratigraphic column.

**PET ALLIGATORS**—Carl F. Kauffeld—*All-Pets*, 24 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. The author is the curator of reptiles at the Staten Island Zoo.

**POPULAR FINCHES**—George W. Noreen—*All-Pets*, 24 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. Telling of the many varieties of this species and showing how most of them can be raised in captivity.

**ROME BEYOND THE IMPERIAL FRONTIERS**—Sir Mortimer Wheeler—*Philosophical Library*, 192 p., illus., \$7.50. Recent discovery has increased our knowledge of the amazing spread of Roman relics being found from Ireland to China. Written by the professor of Roman archaeology at the University of London.

**SOIL WARMING BY ELECTRICITY**—R. H. Coombes—*Philosophical Library*, 116 p., illus., \$4.75. Providing information on the installation of soil-warming equipment for greenhouse, cold-frame and cloche, and discussing those crops which benefit most by soil warming.

**YOUR PET COCKATIEL**—Alice L. Sadler—*All-Pets*, 24 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. The author, who breeds Cockatiels, gives useful information for owners of these birds.

**YOUR PET DOG**—Gabrielle E. Forbush—*All-Pets*, 24 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Giving hints on choosing, raising and training a dog.

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The supply of *pork* in the United States for consumption in 1955 is estimated at 66.5 pounds per person.

*Pygmies* are monogamous, the social unit being the family with the father as the chief; the families form clans governed by the elders.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Objects on Shoulder Cause Cars to Veer

➤ **VEHICLES PARKED** on highway shoulders make drivers veer to the left, sometimes over the center line. This is true even though the cars or trucks do not protrude onto the road.

As a rule, motorists do not slow down when they speed by a car, truck or barricade on the shoulder. The narrower the road, the more they swerve, highway engineer Asriel Taragin reports in *Public Roads* (June). On a two-lane highway, 16-foot wide, cars veered 3.3 feet from the shoulder, while on a 24-foot road, the shift was only 1.8 feet.

Cars traveling in the lane closest to the shoulder are the only ones affected, the study showed. Objects two feet from the pavement had half the effect of those right at the edge. At six feet there is a negligible shifting. On a four-lane highway a barricade had only half the effect of a truck.

Trucks generally veer farther than autos. Motorists make the greatest shift toward the center line when there is no obstructing traffic. But drivers meeting a truck or bus coming the other way were found to stay closest to the shoulder.

Three feet is the minimum adequate clearing distance for cars passing in opposite direction, Mr. Taragin said. But the research, conducted in cooperation with the Oregon State Highway Department, showed that 30% of the passenger cars on two-lane highways with a 24-foot surface had a clearance of three feet or less, when an object was placed on the shoulder.

On roads with 11-foot lanes, the corresponding figure was 46%. An object on the shoulder of roads with eight-foot lanes caused 94% of passing cars to come closer than three feet to oncoming traffic, with an average clearance of only 1.3 feet between cars.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1955

## PHYSIOLOGY

### Malayan Holds World's Record for Taste Sense

➤ **THE WORLD'S RECORD** for the most acute sense of taste for any substance is held by a Malayan Negrito youth belonging to the Kintak Bong division of Negritos and living in the State of Kedah, Federation of Malaya.

In tests with the very bitter substance, phenylthiocarbamide, or phenylthiourea, this lad was able to detect the taste when the substance was diluted to a weaker point than has ever been detected before in taste tests with this and other taste-test substances, such as quinine.

The record-breaking sense of taste is reported by Dr. J. W. H. Lugg of the University of Malaya, Singapore, in *Nature* (Aug. 13).

Science News Letter, August 27, 1955