

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 BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION: A Report to the Public—From a Study by the National Academy of Sciences—National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 40 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. The inheritance mechanism is by far the most sensitive to radiation and the effect is cumulative until the end of the child-bearing years. (See p. 387.)

THE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION: Summary Reports—From a Study by the National Academy of Sciences—National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 108 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. This study was conducted by committees made up of more than 100 leading scientists. (See p. 387.)

ELECTROMAGNETICALLY ENRICHED ISOTOPES AND MASS SPECTROMETRY: Proceedings of the Conference Held in the Cockcroft Hall, Harwell 13-16 September 1955—M. L. Smith, Ed.—Academic, 272 p., illus., \$8.00. The most versatile instrument for isotope enrichment for nuclear research is the mass spectrometer.

ENGINEERING PROBLEMS—Charles Angevine Hutchinson, Leon Watson Rutland, Jr. and Walter Wayne Varner—Harper, 181 p., \$3.00. Text for a college freshman course to parallel

college algebra, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and perhaps an introduction to calculus. An attempt is made to give the student some realization of the close relationship between applied mathematics and engineering.

THE EXPLORATION OF MARS—Willy Ley and Wernher von Braun—Viking, 176 p., illus., with paintings by Chesley Bonestell, \$4.95. As soon as a manned satellite station is established in space, the authors believe that an expedition to Mars will be feasible. Here is described our present knowledge of the planet as well as most accepted theories.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE—Sheldon J. Lachman—Hamilton Press, 130 p., paper, \$1.50. Intended to be sufficiently simple, brief and broad to permit the college student to obtain quickly an orientation in the essentials of science as a constructive and creative enterprise.

FREE AND INEXPENSIVE LEARNING MATERIALS—Division of Surveys and Field Services, George Peabody College for Teachers, 7th ed., 244 p., paper, \$1.00. Listing 3,833 entries alphabetically by subject from accident prevention to youth problems.

FUNCTIONAL MATHEMATICS, BOOK 4—William A. Gager, Luther J. Bowman, Carl N. Shuster and Franklin W. Kokomoor—Scribner's, 578 p., illus., \$3.40. One of a six-book series, this volume for the 12th grade is intended to prepare students for college or for life if they do not go to college.

THE GENUS ACHLYA: Morphology and Taxonomy—Terry W. Johnson, Jr.—University of Michigan Press, 180 p., illus., \$4.50. Describing all the known species of one of the important genera of water molds.

HUMAN RELATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: A Guide to Significant Interpretation and Research—Seymour W. Beardsley and Alvin G. Edgell—Public Affairs Press, 40 p., paper, \$1.00. An annotated bibliography.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS: In Questions and Answers—Edward J. Bukstein—Frederick Ungar, 197 p., illus., \$3.95. Combining the high information-to-words ratio of a reference book with the readability of an introductory text.

INTRODUCTORY ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: With Certain Chapters of Biochemistry—E. Wertheim and Harold Jeskey—McGraw-Hill, 3d ed., 476 p., illus., \$5.50. A standard text, now in its 14th year of publication, for students of home economics, agriculture, veterinary science and nutrition, as well as for those preparing for medicine, dentistry or pharmacy.

MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS: A Modern Approach—Walter T. Hamilton and John Raymond Hamilton—Harper, 379 p., illus., \$7.50. An introductory text for engineering and physics majors.

PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU, REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE AMERICAS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION—Fred L. Soper, Director—Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Official Documents No. 16, 151 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 1501 New Hampshire Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Reporting the exciting story of disease control and elimination in the Americas. Also available in Spanish.

RITUAL AND CULT: A Sociological Interpretation—Orrin E. Klapp—Public Affairs Press,

Annals of American Sociology, 40 p., paper, \$1.00. Modern man, says the author, is afraid of ritual. Yet the fact of the matter is that we could not live without ritual, such as social protocol and political conventions.

SCIENCE AND INFORMATION THEORY—Leon Brillouin—Academic, 320 p., illus., \$6.80. Based on lectures, delivered before engineers at International Business Machines Corporation, on a new theory founded on probability.

SOLID STATE PHYSICS: Advances in Research and Applications, Volume 2—Frederick Seitz and David Turnbull, Eds.—Academic, 468 p., illus., \$10.00. Although the recent rapid growth of this field of physics has not been characterized by radical changes in basic physical theory, it has greatly extended the theory and the understanding of its implications.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WILD—William J. Long—Doubleday, 256 p., illus., \$4.00. Delightful writings of a clergyman-naturalist who died in 1948, leaving this unpublished material in his safe.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS—Paul K. Eckhardt and John C. Flanagan and others—Highway Research Board, Bulletin 120, 54 p., illus., paper, 90 cents. Of interest to every automobile driver and those concerned with safety on the highway. Highway design is apparently ahead of the drivers.

Science News Letter, June 23, 1956

PSYCHIATRY

Mental Cure Rate Increased One-Third

► PATIENTS with chronic mental illness at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Northampton, Mass., are recovering and leaving the hospital at a 36% greater rate, thanks to the new tranquilizing drugs, hospital authorities announced.

During the last six months of 1954, when few patients were getting these drugs, 86 recovered and were discharged. During the last six months of 1955, when extensive drug treatment was given, 118 were discharged.

While many VA hospitals are now joining in a thorough study of all phases of the new drug treatment, the Northampton hospital was the first to announce results. The experience is much the same as in other VA hospitals, preliminary reports have shown.

Among patients hospitalized five years or longer, the percentage of improved cases increased even more when these patients were treated by drugs as compared to other types of treatment, Dr. Lionel M. Ives, director of professional services at the hospital, reported.

Thirty-three were discharged among this group as compared to 19 the year before without benefit of drugs, or a 77% increase. In the less-than-five-year-group, 85 were discharged against 66 or a 29% increase.

Dr. Ives stressed that the new drugs are not a cure for disturbed mental patients. They do calm disturbed patients, so that they may be permitted more freedom within the hospital and can participate daily in the more accepted forms of therapy that prepare them for quicker discharge.

Science News Letter, June 23, 1956

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