

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. XII, No. 49—*British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 110 p., illus., paper, 7 s, 6 d. Includes papers given at the Bristol meeting of the British Association, Sept., 1955.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING: Vol. I, No. 1—U. S. D. A. Agricultural Marketing Service—*Govt. Printing Office*, 16 p., illus., paper, monthly, single copies 15 cents, \$1.50 per year. This publication, formerly called *Marketing Activities*, is directed to those who are engaged in marketing farm products.

BASIC CHEMISTRY OF TEXTILE COLOURING AND FINISHING—S. R. COCKETT and K. A. HILTON—*Philosophical Library*, 191 p., illus., \$6.00. For students and workers in the textile and related industries.

BASIC CHEMISTRY OF TEXTILE PREPARATION—S. R. COCKETT and K. A. HILTON—*Philosophical Library*, 197 p., illus., \$6.00. Intended to give a review of the trades concerned with textile finishing.

THE DINE: ORIGIN MYTHS OF THE NAVAHO INDIANS—Aileen O'Bryan—*Govt. Printing Office*, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 163, 187 p., illus., \$1.75. These legends were told to the author in 1928 by the chief of the Navaho Indians and are here presented, as far as possible, in the chief's own words.

THE FLAMINGOS: THEIR LIFE HISTORY AND SURVIVAL: With Special Reference to the American or West Indian Flamingo—Robert Porter Allen—*National Audubon Society*, Research Report No. 5, 285 p., illus., paper, \$3.95. This beautiful bird, although still occurring in fair numbers, is threatened with extinction as a result of man's use of its highly selective type of habitat and his use, in some areas, of its severely reduced food supply.

THE LITTLE GIANT OF SCHENECTADY: A Story of Charles Steinmetz—Dorothy Markey—*Aladdin Books*, 191 p., illus., \$1.75. Telling for young people the life of the great electrical engineer and of his remarkable discoveries in the field of electricity.

NATURAL SEDIMENT AS A FACTOR IN STREAM POLLUTION CONTROL—Richard D. Hoak and Henry C. Bramer—*Mellon Institute*, 12 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. The pollutional effects of nature are not ordinarily subject to control, but they should be taken into account

when water quality criteria are adopted.

OFF TO A GOOD START: Teacher Orientation—American Association of School Administrators—*National Education Association*, 24 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Pointing out kinds of help new teachers need, things to be done to give that help, and the people responsible for seeing that help is forthcoming.

PEOPLE AND TIMBER: A Review of America's Timber Resources—*Forest Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture*, 16 p., illus., paper, single copies free upon request to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. Reviewing in concise form the significant facts about our current timber situation.

PESTICIDE HANDBOOK 1956—Donald E. H. Frear, M. Frances Sunday and Sidney Friedman, Eds.—*College Science*, 8th ed., 208 p., cloth \$3.00, paper \$1.25. Listing over 6,000 commercial products, indexed by trade names, active ingredients and manufacturers.

PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH—L. H. Ahrens, Kalervo Rankama, and S. K. Runcorn, Eds.—*McGraw-Hill*. Progress in Physics and Chemistry, Vol. 1, 317 p., illus., \$8.00. The aim of this new series is to provide up-to-date surveys of progress for those engaged in geophysics and geochemistry, and to acquaint the geologist with the results and methods of geophysics and geochemistry.

PRACTICAL PICTORIAL GUIDE TO MECHANISMS AND MACHINES—Simon S. Palestrant—*University Books*, 256 p., illus., \$4.00. Illustrating and explaining concisely thousands of machine devices classified according to their use.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF OCCUPATIONS—Anne Roe—*Wiley*, 340 p., \$6.75. Presenting the available data on psychological variation among people in different occupations.

THE RAIN FORESTS OF GOLFO DULCE—Paul H. Allen—*University of Florida Press*, 417 p., illus., \$8.50. Rain forests are difficult for the botanist to study for most of the plants' identifiable structures are out of reach. The author shows how much one can learn from such features as the stature of a tree, the kind of bark or sap, or the place in which the tree is growing. The rain forest of Golfo Dulce is in the southernmost part of Costa Rica.

THE RAPE OF THE MIND: The Psychology of Thought Control, Menticide and Brainwashing—*World*, 320 p., \$5.00. "The rape of the mind and stealthy mental coercion are among the oldest crimes of mankind," the author says. This book attempts to "depict the strange transformation of the free human mind into an automatically responding machine." (See p. 67.)

SPRING ON AN ARCTIC ISLAND—Katharine Scherman—*Little, Brown*, 331 p., \$5.00. The story of an expedition of scientists who spent six weeks studying the flora, fauna and people on an island in the Arctic Circle.

TABOO—Franz Steiner with preface by E. E. Evans-Pritchard—*Philosophical Library*, 154 p., \$4.75. Taboo has often been a subject of anthropological study since Captain Cook first used the word in his account of the Polynesians. The author examines critically theories put forward by some of the writers in the past.

TEACHING BY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION: Report of a Conference Sponsored Jointly by the Committee on Television of the American Council on Education and the State University of Iowa—Carroll V. Newsum, Chairman—*Ameri-*

can Council on Education, 66 p., paper, \$1.00. While the use of television is no cure-all for the teacher shortage, this report states, there is supporting evidence that through closed-circuit television there can be better utilization of the experienced teacher, an acceleration of the learning process, and wider course offerings.

VIBRATION AND STRESSES IN GIRDER BRIDGES—John M. Biggs and others—*Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 124, 134 p., illus., paper, \$2.55. Containing six papers presented at the 34th annual meeting of the Highway Research Board. *Science News Letter*, August 4, 1956

ORNITHOLOGY

Low Blood Pressure Worse Than High

► CONTRARY TO HUMAN experience, low blood pressure apparently is rough for chickens.

Among birds with low pressure, mortality was nearly twice that among birds with either high or median blood pressure, Drs. Paul D. Sturkie, R. K. Ringer and H. S. Weiss of Rutgers University's laboratory of avian physiology, New Brunswick, N. J., found.

They took blood pressure readings on several hundred hens and roosters at seven to ten months in 1950, 1952 and 1954. Records of mortality and egg production were kept until the birds were about 19 months old.

About 30% of the birds had high blood pressure, 30% low blood pressure and 40% median pressure. Although deaths were nearly twice as many in birds with low pressure as in the other groups, there were no significant differences in egg production or body weights.

The cause of the higher mortality in the low blood pressure birds could not be determined from the gross autopsies done after death, they report in the *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine*. (June).

The study was made to find, if possible, clues to the cause of death in birds dying from unknown causes. Mortality losses in poultry flocks during the first laying year range from 20% to 40%, with half due to unknown causes.

Science News Letter, August 4, 1956

YOUR SKIN AND ITS CARE

By H. T. Bohman, M.D., and O. L. Levin, M.D.

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