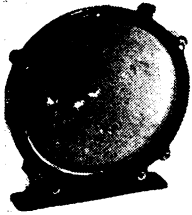


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Books of the Week

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.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TWENTIETH SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT July 1956 — Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 260 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. Most important step of the half year was making available 40,000 kilograms of special nuclear materials for fueling power and research reactors at home and abroad. (See SNL, Aug. 11, p. 83.)

BASICS OF PHOTOTUBES AND PHOTOCELLS — David Mark—*Rider*, 128 p., illus., paper, \$2.90. For students, technicians and engineers.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF CORROSION 1952-1953: A Compilation of Corrosion Abstracts—A. Irene Humphrey—*National Association of Corrosion Engineers*, 382 p., \$12.50. Summaries of 3,344 corrosion and corrosion prevention articles arranged topically according to the NACE Abstract Filing Index.

ENGINEERING AS A CAREER—Ralph J. Smith—*McGraw-Hill*, 365 p., illus., \$4.75. An outgrowth of teaching an orientation course to freshmen in engineering schools. Previewing the basic engineering sciences and demonstrating their applications, and indicating the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of the engineer.

THE FIRST QUARTER-CENTURY OF STEAM LOCOMOTIVES IN NORTH AMERICA: Remaining Relics and Operable Replicas With a Catalog of Locomotive Models in the U. S. National Museum—Smith Hempstone Oliver—*Smithsonian (Govt. Printing Office)*, 112 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Altogether about a quarter of a million

steam locomotives have been built in America but today it has become the vanishing iron horse.

THE MATHEMATICS OF DIFFUSION—J. Crank—*Oxford University Press*, 347 p., \$8.00. Description of diffusion processes in terms of solutions of the differential equation for diffusion.

PULMONARY EMPHYSEMA—Alvan L. Barach and Hylan A. Bickerman, Eds.—*Williams and Wilkins*, 545 p., illus., \$10.00. The editors and 16 contributors outline methods of medical and surgical treatment, with the theories on which they are based, in this "how-to-do-it book" for physicians.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GAS DYNAMICS SYMPOSIUM ON AEROTHERMOCHEMISTRY—Donald K. Fleming, Ed.—*Northwestern University*, 284 p., illus., \$4.00. Due to the very accelerated pace of technological developments during recent years, non-academic laboratories have assumed the leadership in research.

RESEARCH FOR PROFIT: Proceedings of National Industrial Research Conference—Mervin J. Kelly and others—*Armour Research Foundation*, 72 p., illus., paper, \$6.00. Complete papers presented by leaders in research and industry.

THE RISE OF SCIENTIFIC PHILOSOPHY—Hans Reichenbach—*University of California Press*, 333 p., paper, \$1.50. This book was written, according to the author, to show that philosophy has proceeded from speculation to science.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1956

PUBLIC HEALTH

A-Bomb Fallout Studied

► A NINE-YEAR STUDY of how A-bomb radioactive fallout in New Mexico and Nevada affected plants and animals has been reported.

The investigators found that no animal studied had a level of radiostrontium, which can cause bone tumors, considered hazardous.

The report was made at the American Institute of Biological Sciences meeting at the University of Connecticut by Kermit H. Larson and Dr. R. G. Lindberg of the Atomic Energy Project at the University of California at Los Angeles. The scientists headed the survey team.

The study was started in 1947 at Trinity Site near Alamogordo, N. M., where the first A-bomb was exploded in 1945, and has embraced the Nevada test region. Radioactivity has been traced through soil, plants and animals in the area.

Particular emphasis has been placed on the progress of persistent radioactive isotopes, such as those of strontium, through the food chain of plant-animal-predators. This has included detailed studies of plant-eating rodents and birds in the area, and the foxes that prey upon them.

It was found that radioactive contamination of soil falls off rapidly with increasing distance from the test site following the A-

bomb blast. Plant radioactivity tapers off a little more gradually with fluctuations.

One of the most significant results reported was that retention of radiostrontium by the animal skeletons tends to remain the same or actually increase with distance up to 400 miles from ground zero. The maximum values observed were within 200 miles, based on one fallout pattern.

Although some of the radiostrontium may have been ingested from licking contaminated fur and paws, it is thought the primary source was from eating contaminated plants or animals.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1956

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