

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 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION—J. G. Harrar—*Rockefeller Foundation*, illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 49 West 49th St., New York 20, N. Y. Reporting 13 years of cooperative programs of food improvement in Mexico, Colombia and Chile. Beautiful design and decorations by V. Bobri and photographs by Neil B. MacLellan.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—Caryl P. Haskins—

Carnegie Institution of Washington, 28 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 1530 P Street, N. W., Washington 5, D. C. Report on the 54th year of an institution founded when scientific research in America was in its infancy.

THE GREAT CHAIN OF LIFE—Joseph Wood Krutch with illustrations by Paul Landacre—*Houghton Mifflin*, 227 p., illus., \$3.75. By a nature lover about the behavior and lives of animals.

THE NEW ATOMIC AGE—*United Nations*, 40 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. Discussing the problem of how to obtain enough energy to provide for the needs of everyday life and the possibility of using nuclear energy to supply those needs.

A NEW LOOK AT READING: A Guide to the Language Arts—Willard Abraham—*Porter Sargent*, 236 p., paper \$2.75, cloth \$3.50. A book for parents and teachers providing a means for analyzing, studying and solving the reading disability of the individual child.

A NEW LOOK AT THE FRACTIONS—V. P. Palmer—*Palmer*, 65 p., illus., paper, \$2.95. Some interesting facts about numbers that make it simple to convert common fractions to decimal equivalents.

THE POPULATION EXPLOSION—Karl Sax—*Foreign Policy Association*, Headline Series Number 120, 61 p., illus., paper, 35 cents. Discussing the situation which, the author declares, could be a greater threat to world peace and prosperity than the atomic bomb.

TEEN-AGERS AND ALCOHOL: A Handbook for the Educator—Raymond G. McCarthy—*Yale Center of Alcohol Studies*, 188 p., \$4.00. Including a summary of the existing evidence on the attitudes and actual drinking practices of young people of high-school and college age.

THIN EDGE OF THE WORLD—Andre Migot—*Little, Brown*, 242 p., illus., \$4.50. Story of a year spent by the author as staff doctor and research biologist with a party of scientists on the desolate island of Kerguelen and of another expedition to the Antarctic.

Science News Letter, January 12, 1957

RADIO

Saturday, January 19, 1957, 1:45-2:00 p.m., EST.

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Mr. William F. Calkins, manager of agricultural publications of the division of agricultural science of the University of California at Berkeley, Calif., will discuss "Communicating Technical Information."

MEDICINE

VA Shock Treatments Cut 90% by Tranquilizers

► NINETY PERCENT of the shock treatments used on the mentally ill in Veterans Administration hospitals have been eliminated by the new tranquilizing drugs.

These are the dramatic results from VA neuropsychiatric hospitals throughout the nation, Dr. Ivan F. Bennett, chief of psychiatric research in the VA Central Office, Washington, has reported.

The 90% reduction refers to both insulin shock and electric shock therapy. Achieving it frees many hospital workers who have had to spend much of their time administering shock treatment to work directly with patients in their other activities.

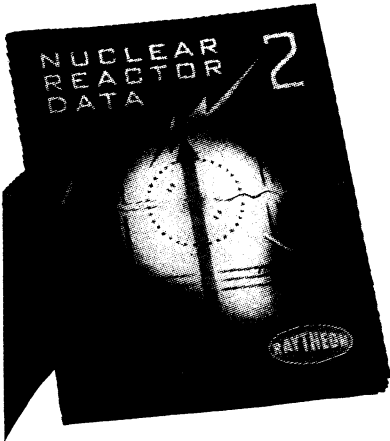
The tranquilizers are also permitting better treatment for mentally ill veterans, and more patients can return home by discharge from hospitals and trial visits, Dr. Bennett said.

He emphasized that the new drug therapy was not a cure for mental illness, but that the patient's symptoms improve so much he is often able to be with his family at home and to hold down a job.

"However," Dr. Bennett said, "there still remain mentally ill patients in VA hospitals whose conditions cannot be relieved by the newer methods or who remain resistant to the effect of tranquilizing drugs. These patients, in order to have the best available treatments in modern psychiatry, are receiving shock therapies."

Science News Letter, January 12, 1957

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