

Books of the Week

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EX-COLOURED MAN:

The Vivid Story of a Negro Who Crossed the Colour Line—James Weldon Johnson—*New American Library*, 142 p., paper, 35 cents. Reprint of a book originally written anonymously and published by Knopf. The author was a Negro, but the book is not, actually, autobiographical; that being merely a device to call attention to the illogical character of race prejudice.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS (Journal

Canadien de Mathematiques), Vol. I, No. 1—H. S. M. Coxeter, Editor-in-Chief—*University of Toronto Press*, quarterly, \$6.00 per year or \$3.00 to members of certain mathematical associations.

DISTILLATION AND RECTIFICATION—Emil Kirsch-

baum—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 426 p., illus., \$10.00. The first English edition of a book of interest especially to those in the distillation industry. Translated by M. Wolfinghoff.

EDUCATION IN HAITI—Mercer Cook—*Govt.*

Printing Office, 90 p., illus., paper, 25 cents.

ENJOY YOUR CHILD—AGES 1, 2, AND 3—James

L. Hymes, Jr.—*Public Affairs Committee*, 32 p., illus., 20 cents. Useful hints on how to do what is right for your young child and still have fun with him.

GENERAL ENDOCRINOLOGY—C. Donnell Turner

—*Saunders*, 604 p., illus., \$6.75. A textbook presented as a fundamental aspect of biologic science rather than as a medical specialty.

HEATING, VENTILATING, AIR CONDITIONING

GUIDE, 1948—*American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers*, 1280 p., illus., \$7.50. Containing technical and reference material, a manufacturers' catalog section, and a membership list of the Society.

INORGANIC PROCESS INDUSTRIES—Kenneth A.

Kobe—*Macmillan*, 371 p., illus., \$6.00. A textbook containing basic information about these important chemical industries.

NEW HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS—Hubert J.

Bernhard, Dorothy A. Bennett and Hugh S. Rice—*McGraw-Hill*, rev. ed., 360 p., illus., \$3.00. Written by and for people who enjoy the stars. The first edition from which this is re-written was the work of members of the Junior Astronomy Club.

NEW TELEVISION: The Magic Screen—Raymond

F. Yates—*Didier*, 175 p., illus., \$2.75. A simple explanation for laymen of a complicated commonplace.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT: Selected Pa-

pers—Chester I. Barnard—*Harvard University Press*, 244 p., \$4.00. The author, who is president of N. J. Bell Telephone Co., is also co-author of the State Department Report on International Control of Atomic Energy. He gives here his impressions of different kinds of private and public organization.

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-

MENT IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, July 1, 1946-June 30, 1947—Department of State—*Govt. Printing Office*, 373 p., paper, 65 cents. International conferences attended by U. S. delegates will probably number 450 in 1948 as compared with an average of 75 annually before World War II. Those summarized in this volume include many on

science and related topics.

PROJECTIVE METHODS—Lawrence K. Frank—

Thomas, 86 p., \$2.75. A lecture intended to direct the attention of students and others to the various methods for studying personality by permitting the individual to "read into" various neutral situations his own characteristic interpretations.

THE SONGS OF INSECTS: With Related Material

on the Production, Detection, and Measure-

ENTOMOLOGY

Insects Menace Crops

► GRASSHOPPER HORDES are threatening crops in the northern Lake states and nearby prairie regions, reports from field entomologists to U. S. Department of Agriculture headquarters indicate. Wheat and the other small grains are largely out of harm's way, but corn and soybeans still have many weeks to go before they are "made," as have later cuttings of alfalfa and other hay crops.

Principal 'hopper concentrations are in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, with the situation nearly as serious in Iowa and Minnesota, states W. A. Baker of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Curiously enough, in the "chronic" grasshopper regions farther west and southwest the insects are not particularly troublesome, except for spotty outbreaks in South Dakota, Oklahoma and Arizona.

Severity of the grasshopper menace in the northern Midwest is believed to be due to the long drought of spring and early summer, which favored hatching and early survival. Rains in May and June, which usually beat a large proportion of the new-hatched 'hoppers into the ground, failed to materialize. At the same time, the drought checked the growth of wild vegetation on which grasshoppers normally do much of their feeding, and thus induced them to turn more towards cultivated plants.

Moderate to heavy rains over most of the threatened area within the past week or two found the grasshoppers too big to drown or pound into the ground. However, by encouraging the growth of wild vegetation they did some indirect good by diverting the insects' attention from the crops.

New counter-measures are receiving their first large-scale tryouts in the affected region. In place of the older sodium arsenite and sodium fluoride in bran-sawdust baits, two new organic chlorine compounds, Chlordane and chlorinated camphene or Toxaphene, are being sprayed or dusted directly on the vegetation. Another, benzene hexachloride, seems better adapted to use mixed with bait. Much still needs to be

ment of Sonic and Supersonic Vibrations—George W. Pierce—*Harvard University Press*, 329 p., illus., \$5.00. Those concerned with sound and supersonic signalling have a particular interest in the sounds of insects, many of which are outside the range of human hearing. Thus, this investigation from the physics laboratory at Harvard.

YELLOWSTONE—ITS UNDERWORLD: Geology and Historical Anecdotes of Our Oldest National Park—Clyde Max Bauer—*University of New Mexico Press*, 122 p., illus., \$2.00. A geologist of the National Park Service is author of this beautifully illustrated little book which gives informal answers to tourists and others who are curious as to what lies under the lovely scenery of Yellowstone.

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learned about all of these new weapons, however, Mr. Baker stated. Thus far their performance has been rather uneven; sometimes good, sometimes not so good. Factors still uninvestigated, like temperature or light, may affect the potency of the poisons in field use.

Chinch-bugs, usually grasshoppers' companions in evil-doing, have been quiescent so far, Mr. Baker reported. There have been some spotty outbreaks in Oklahoma and Missouri, but no mass activity. Benzene hexachloride and Chlordane have been used experimentally on the bugs where they could be found, but until real swarms of them appear somewhere it will not be possible to determine the anti-chinch-bug value of these new insecticides. The entomologists are waiting, and the first few billion chinch-bugs are likely to have a rough time of it.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Communism Is Poor Issue In Political Campaign

► COMMUNISM will not be an issue in the coming political campaign if the leading candidates follow the psychological advice of Robert C. Myers, visiting lecturer at Princeton University. Mr. Myers discussed political psychology as guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on Adventures in Science heard over the Columbia network.

It is not that the American people do not hate communism, but just that all are agreed in finding it very bad. It would not be plausible to tag an opponent as an agent of communism, or for each to claim that he is against it.

"It would be as silly," Mr. Myers said, "as if every candidate for office in the dairy state of Wisconsin should hang his campaign on the fact that he was distinguished because he hated oleomargarine—and hated it with a fervor greater than that of any of his opponents."

Psychologically, a political campaign is very much like the "thriller" melodramas of the old days, Mr. Myers indicated. The skillful campaigner finds out in advance what things his audience is most likely to hate and fear, and he casts these things in the role of the villain.

The villains may be high taxes, war, insufferable bureaucracy, communism, immorality, political corruption—or even civil liberties, Mr. Myers indicated. The political opponents are cleverly made to seem to personify these villains.

The candidate himself is, of course, the hero, the "knight in shining armor" who will save the voter from being ravaged by the villains and by their agents, dupes or accomplices.

That puts the voter in the role of the heroine.

"At this point the heroine—that is, the audience—should come in for a great deal of praise. Its worthwhileness and virtues should be painted in the brightest colors. Each member of the audience should be made to feel his extreme worth, and how horrible it would really be if any of the villains should actually win out, and how lucky he is to have a man before him who is ready to fight for him and save him from a fate worse than death."

But now the campaigner has worked himself into a bad position. For the beautiful heroine ordinarily does nothing to save herself. It is the hero who acts. How is he to get the voter to the polls?

"To bring this about calls for extremely fast footwork," Mr. Myers explains, "and our campaigner must skillfully and smoothly pull off what we may call a 'switch.' He must subtly and adroitly switch roles with the audience so that at election time, the audience members will be the heroes, and he the heroine who must be saved from his opponents by the votes which the audience members must cast."

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ZOOLOGY

Wolves Studied by Leading Soviet Zoologist

➤ WOLVES (the kind that howl, not the ones that whistle) are the special subjects of study of Prof. A. Kohts of the Darwin Museum, one of Russia's leading zoologists, according to word received indirectly from Moscow. He has had especially good opportunities to build up his collection lately, because of the increase of the wildlife population of the USSR that followed the war's devastation.

The wolf species of northern Europe and Asia is identical with that of North America, Prof. Kohts declares. Differences are mainly in coat color. While North American wolves are gray, European wolves have a range of color from practically black in Spain to a sandy hue in the solitary wolves of the Arabian desert. Wolves of the cold Tibetan plateau, he adds, have woolly coats.

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Special Pre-Publication Offer to Readers of Science News Letter

THE method of rhythmical design presented by Joseph Schillinger links together on a mathematical basis music, design and all the graphic arts. In his method, Schillinger reveals the fundamental mathematical laws of structure underlying plant and animal life, and the applications thereof in the art forms of developed cultures of the past. In my opinion his achievement is a genuine and valuable contribution to the study of esthetics and to art education. Because the laws which he formulates are mathematically fundamental, Schillinger's method is applicable not only in the analysis of existing works of art and of musical compositions, but offers a definite and workable procedure for architects, painters, composers, sculptors, and designers in the industrial fields.

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THE MATHEMATICAL BASIS OF THE ARTS

By Joseph Schillinger

"THE AUTHOR'S goal is, in his own words, 'to disclose the mechanism of creatorship as it manifests itself in nature and in the arts.' We are convinced he has achieved that goal. All the arts, like Architecture, must be built. And toward their building — perhaps as a guide in their planning and certainly as a corrective of their creator's mortal errors of execution, a knowledge of the MATHEMATICAL BASIS OF THE ARTS is of profound importance."—Rockwell Kent.

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