

Books of the Week

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CANCER: Volume 1, Number 1—Fred W. Stewart—*Hoebner*, 176 p., illus., monthly, \$8.00 a year, \$2.50 a single copy. A new journal dealing primarily with human cancer and experimental work which has a relationship, even though remote, to human cancer. Excellent illustrations.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE AMATEUR—Keith Henney—*McGraw-Hill*, rev. ed., 355 p., illus., \$5.00. All methods of making transparencies and color prints are treated largely from the author's own experience.

FAILURES IN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT—Paul H. Hoch, Ed.—*Grune & Stratton*, 241 p., illus., \$4.50. Papers presented before the American Psychopathological Association by distinguished scientists who discuss the shortcomings of various branches of the field.

THE FEEDING AND RELATED BEHAVIOR OF HUMMINGBIRDS—Frank Bene—*Branford*, 112 p., illus., \$2.50. A study of the hummingbirds that nested in the author's garden.

HOW TO PREDICT ELECTIONS—Louis H. Bean—*Knopf*, 196 p., \$2.50. A timely book telling why polls go right and wrong, the power of third parties, and how to read the meaning of political straws in the wind.

ISLAND LIFE: A Study of the Land Vertebrates of the Islands of Eastern Lake Michigan—Robert T. Hatt and others—*Cranbrook Institute of Science*, 179 p., illus., \$4.00. The fauna of islands interests naturalists because segregation speeds differentiation and often alters the habits of species.

LIMNOLOGICAL METHODS—Paul S. Welch—*Blakiston*, 381 p., illus., \$7.00. Providing a single source of information about the meth-

ods of study of life in fresh water, ordinarily scattered throughout the literature of other sciences.

LOVEJOY'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—Clarence E. Lovejoy—*Simon and Schuster*, 158 p., paper, \$1.50. Information for those planning to go to college. Supplanting an earlier book, "So You're Going to College."

OUR AMERICAN LAND: The Story of Its Abuse and Its Conservation—Hugh H. Bennett—*Govt. Printing Office*, 31 p., illus., paper, 10 cents.

PROGRESS IN NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY: An Annual Review, Volume III—E. A. Spiegel—*Grune & Stratton*, 661 p., \$10.00. This volume reviews more than 2,800 papers on basic sciences, neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry.

A REAPPRAISAL OF PERUVIAN ARCHAEOLOGY—Wendell C. Bennett, Ed.—*Society for American Archaeology and the Institute of Andean Research*, 128 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Formal papers presented at a conference on Peruvian archaeology.

THE STORY OF OUR TIME: Encyclopedia Yearbook, 1948—*Grolier Society*, 431 p., illus., \$7.50. The story of an important year told in text and photographs. Includes much on science.

UNDERWATER EXPLOSIONS—Robert H. Cole—*Princeton University Press*, 437 p., illus., \$7.50. Interesting to those concerned with the effect of explosions and also because of the information that the explosion data give about hydrodynamics.

Science News Letter, July 24, 1948

MEDICINE

Counteract Barbiturates

► PEOPLE who take overdoses of the barbiturate sleeping medicines, either by accident or with suicidal intent, may in future be saved by having a kind of tourniquet put around the middle of the chest to constrict it.

This possibility appears in a report by Drs. Augustus C. P. Bakos and William L. Howell of Georgetown University School of Medicine in the journal, *Science* (July 9).

The barbiturate sleeping medicines affect the breathing center in the brain. When a poisonously large dose has been taken, breathing goes on only through reflex drives. But at this stage, the rate of breathing in dogs can be increased by compression of the chest, the Georgetown scientists found. The compression was done with the kind of cuff doctors use in taking blood pressure. This seemed to elicit and maintain a reflex from the lungs which kept the animals breathing even when the breathing center in their brains had been deadened by the drug.

Preliminary observations, the scientists report, show that the maneuver may be effective in cases of barbiturate poisoning, although not enough data have been obtained to be sure.

Science News Letter, July 24, 1948

ENGINEERING

Most Nations Sponsor Big Water Control Projects

► MOST national governments provide the funds directly for construction of major water conservation and control structures, including those for irrigation, the International Congress on Large Dams was told at its meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, by Michael W. Straus, American Commissioner of Reclamation.

He reported on a study made of practices in 21 nations, perhaps the first world-wide investigation of this subject ever made. The study included Australia, New Zealand, Russia, China, India and the nations of

Asia Minor, plus many in South America, also Canada and the United States.

Direct national financing was found to be the practice in more than one-half the countries studied. Everywhere the trend seems to be toward the national governments assuming a greater share of the costs of irrigation. The greatest disparity in methods occurs, he said, in how the various governments recoup their investments. Perhaps the most significant single trend is toward liberalization of repayments from the direct project beneficiaries.

Federal governments, including the United States and some other countries, participate to a greater degree in paying for some other types of water-control programs than for irrigation. The policy of the United States, he stated, is to improve or participate in the improvement of navigable waters or their tributaries for flood-control purposes if the benefits, to whomsoever they may accrue, are in excess of the estimated costs and if the lives and social security of people are otherwise adversely affected.

Science News Letter, July 24, 1948

Magnetic *highway sweepers* which pick up nails and other metal scraps are now widely used in America; where used they gather an average of 8.2 pounds of metal per mile per year, 75% of which is tire-damaging material.



QUICK-READING

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