

Books of the Week

TO SERVE YOU: To get books, send us a check or money order to cover retail price. Address Book Dept., SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Ask for free publications direct from issuing organizations.

A. S. T. M. STANDARDS ON COAL AND COKE (WITH RELATED INFORMATION)—A. S. T. M. Committee D-5—*American Society for Testing Materials*, 156 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Sampling methods, chemical analysis, methods of testing, specifications and classifications, and definitions of terms.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, CASE STUDIES I: CROWN ZELLERBACH AND THE PACIFIC COAST PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY—Clark Kerr and Roger Randall—*National Planning Association*, 78 p., paper, \$1.00.

HUNTING AMERICAN LIONS—Frank C. Hibben—*Crowell*, 225 p., illus., \$3.75. The romantic story of the author's own experiences in the hunt, illustrated beautifully by Paul Bransom. The author is well known as an anthropologist.

IONOSPHERIC RADIO PROPAGATION—Staff, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards—*Govt. Printing Office*, 209 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. A technical book setting forth the physical and mathematical theory underlying the principles of radio communication by reflection from the ionosphere and showing the relation between the theory and practical problems of radio communication.

LET'S LOOK INSIDE YOUR HOUSE—Herman and Nina Schneider—*Scott*, 40 p., illus., \$1.50. An attractive science book for children devoted to common applications of scientific principles in the home.

LET'S TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT SEX—Howard Whitman—*Pellegrini & Cudahy*, 242 p., \$2.50. A book of information for parents to pass on to their children or for them to assimilate themselves.

THE NATION'S HEALTH: A Ten Year Program—Oscar R. Ewing—*Govt. Printing Office*, 186 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. The United States is steadily improving its health record but each year 325,000 people die whom we have the knowledge and skill to save and 4,300,000 man-years of work are lost annually through bad health.

NEW THREATS TO AMERICAN FREEDOMS—Robert E. Cushman—*Public Affairs Committee*, 32 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Here is a brief, clear definition of just what are the rights of Americans under our constitution and a description of some of the dangers that now threaten them.

THE PATENT SYSTEM II—Brainerd Currie, Ed.—*Law and Contemporary Problems*, 145 p., paper, \$1.00. The second of two symposiums on this subject published in the quarterly journal *Law and Contemporary Problems*.

READINGS IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES—Harlow Shapley, Helen Wright and Samuel Rapport—*Appleton*, 501 p., \$3.00. Here are selections from the original writings of great scientists, carefully chosen to give you an understanding of the physical world as well as a conception of the habits of thought which have built the edifice of modern science.

TAKE OFF YOUR MASK—Ludwig Eidelberg—*International Universities Press*, 230 p., \$3.25. Conversations between patients and the psychoanalysts are here set down in a most

interesting form in order to give the general reader a better idea of mental ills and the way in which psychoanalysis can aid in relieving them.

THE UNITED NATIONS: Three Years of Achievement—*Department of State*, 19 p., paper, 10 cents. October 24 marks the completion of three years since the Charter of the United Nations came into force—three years of "exploring old problems and of seeking new solutions." It is a story of steady progress against difficult odds.

YOUR INCOME TAX—J. K. Lasser—*Simon and Schuster*, 168 p., paper, \$1.00. A new edition of a guide found useful by many.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1948

AGRICULTURE

Tractors Are Increasing Danger of Soil Abuse

➤ THE change from horses to tractors on American farms has increased the danger of soil abuse.

This is the conclusion of three soil scientists of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Cornell University who have completed a study of the effects of organic matter and erosion on soil packing in New York State.

A soil low in organic matters when subjected to the compacting force equal to the rubber tire of a two-plow tractor, may pack to a point that water will move through the soil very slowly, Dr. John Lamb, Jr., said. On the other hand, organic matter protects the subsoil against compaction. The amount of organic matter and intensity of the packing force help determine the amount of moisture a soil can hold.

The packing force used in the soil tests was equal to a tractor or empty truck.

Among the results: For each of the soils studied, the sample with the highest degree of packing was lowest in organic matter.

"With more and more heavy equipment coming onto our farmlands today, we need to be more concerned than ever about maintaining a high organic-matter content in the soil," Dr. Lamb advised.

Science News Letter, September 25, 1948

MEDICINE

Screening Program Set Up For Cancer-Finding Tests

➤ A DRIVE is starting to put on trial the many varieties of tests for detecting cancer. Tests which pass careful screening for accuracy and simplicity will be given a mass try-out through a cooperative program.

The new program will be under the direction of the National Cancer Institute of the U. S. Public Health Service, with the cooperation of a half-a-dozen medical

schools and hospitals, Dr. J. R. Heller, director of the Institute, revealed.

Tests selected as showing promise in the laboratories will first be applied to small groups in the cooperating institutions. If they prove effective in detecting cancer in its early, curable stages, they will be used on thousands of persons with and without cancer, particularly those passing through the U. S. Public Health Service Medical Center at Hot Springs, Ark., Dr. Heller said.

"The program is still in the blueprint stage," he pointed out, "but we are at the point of crystallizing our thinking and of appointing someone to head the program and get it under way."

Three aims of this program are: sorting out the most effective detection tests; refining the most promising tests; and developing new tests for cancer.

"Even if the cause and cure (of cancer) were unexpectedly found tomorrow," Dr. Heller declared, "there would still be need for effective diagnostic tests."

Science News Letter, September 25, 1948



SCIENCE SERVICE BOOK SELECTION

Control of Atomic Energy

A Study of Its Social, Economic, and Political Implications.

By JAMES R. NEWMAN and BYRON S. MILLER

This clear and concise analysis of the problems of atomic energy control interprets the Atomic Energy Act, describes in detail the organization, power, and scope of the Atomic Energy Commission, and discusses the infant industry and its present and future applications. A series of appendixes provide the text of the Act and related laws, and an explanation of scientific terms, and whys and wherefores, concerning atomic energy. \$5.00. 434 pp.

This informative book, of vital concern to every citizen, is one of those chosen from time to time by Science Service for the convenience of its readers as an outstanding work in its field. To receive this book, just mail the coupon with remittance.



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