

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.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN RUSH: His "Travels Through Life" together with his Commonplace Book for 1789-1813—George W. Corner, Ed.—*American Philosophical Society (Princeton University Press)*, 399 p., illus., \$6.00. An important historic document is this compilation of the writings of a notable patriot and physician whose thirst for knowledge in widely varied fields caused him to set down a tremendous number of interesting facts.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE: A Brief History of the Association From Its Founding in 1848 to 1948, Its Present Organization and Operation, Summarized Proceedings for the Period from January, 1940 to January, 1948 and a Directory of Members as of December 31, 1947—*AAAS*, 1219 p., \$8.50 members, \$9.50 non-members.

THE CITRUS INDUSTRY, VOLUME II: PRODUCTION OF THE CROP—Leon Dexter Batchelor and Herbert John Webber, Eds.—*University of California Press*, 933 p., illus., \$10.00. A book for fruit growers with each chapter written by an author with special knowledge of the subject.

THE CYTOPLASM OF THE PLANT CELL—Alexandre Guillaumond—*Chronica Botanica*, 247 p., illus., \$5.00. The work of a French author translated by Dr. Lenotte Rogers Atkinson.

MAGIC IN A BOTTLE—Milton Silverman—*Macmillan*, 2d ed., 386 p., \$3.50. Romantic stories behind the development of modern drugs and remedies.

MANUAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYING—A. Henry Detweiler—*American Schools of Oriental Research*, 129 p., illus., \$1.75. A reference work for archaeologists and excavators which will enable them to express their descriptions of findings with greater exactness and to understand one another.

MARCHING WITH THE GRASSES—Raymond J. Pool—*University of Nebraska Press*, 210 p., illus., \$3.50. Much of the food that we depend on for life is derived from grass. This work is intended to give the general reader an appreciation of the vital and global importance of the grasses.

ORGANIC REACTIONS, VOLUME IV—Roger Adams, Ed.—*Wiley*, 428 p., \$6.00. This is a standard work issued in succeeding volumes, each chapter written by an expert and giving a comprehensive survey of a particular reaction.

PHYSICO CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS—Robert Livingston—*Macmillan*, rev. ed., 267 p., illus., \$3.50. A text for courses in physical chemistry. The revision involved no major changes.

PLENTY OF PEOPLE: The World's Population Pressures, Problems, and Policies and How They Concern Us—Warren S. Thompson—*Ronald*, rev. ed., 281 p., illus., \$3.50. The director of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems believes that England, Germany and Italy already have more people than is desirable, while China, Japan and India as well as other parts of Asia can only look forward to the most dis-

trressing poverty until they learn to control their population growth.

PROJECTIVE TECHNIQUE: A Dynamic Approach to the Study of the Personality—John Elderkin Bell—*Longmans*, 533 p., \$4.50. A text and reference book covering word-association tests, Rorschach, TAT, Rosenzweig, Szondi, psychodrama and other modern methods of studying personality through projective techniques.

THE ROLE OF UPROOTED PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN RECOVERY—Jane Perry Clark Carey—*National Planning Association*, 85 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Accompanied by a "Program Guide for Discussion" prepared by the American Friends Service Committee.

THE STORY OF BLOOD—John H. Glynn—*Wyn*, 285 p., \$3.00. A popularly written book by a bacteriologist.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS: A Complete Guide for Amateur and Specialist—Worth Brown—*Barrows*, 128 p., illus., \$2.75. Especially for the home gardener and enthusiast.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1948

MEDICINE

Cancer Remedies May Come From Natural Compounds

➤ ONE KIND of cancer in rats can be made to regress within a week by chemicals extracted from malt extract and wheat middlings, Drs. T. B. Heaton and G. M. Robinson of the University of Oxford announce in the British scientific journal, *NATURE* (Oct. 9).

Their report does not suggest any application to human cancer. American cancer researchers point out that any number of compounds will slow down the growth of cancers in laboratory animals, but such compounds have proved disappointing as possible remedies for human cancer.

Hope continues, however, that some naturally occurring compound, from plant or animal sources, may prove effective against this disease.

The chemicals from wheat and malt may be the same. The wheat middlings one can be converted to another chemical of the aldehyde class. All three of these, in small doses, stop the growth of rats. This effect starts as soon as the chemical is given and stops as soon as the scientists stopped giving the chemical.

But when the chemicals are given in the much larger dose necessary to cause the cancer to regress, they do not stop the growth of the rats. On the contrary, the chemicals seem in the big doses to speed growth in terms of weight gains.

It was the growth-arresting effect of various substances from plants and yeast and of some pure chemicals which years ago started the scientists on their search.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1948

A New Book
on the
Ever Important Question of

MINERAL NUTRITION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

By Frank A. Gilbert
Battelle Memorial Institute

WHAT causes low crop production, abnormally developed plants? "Hairless" hogs? Lean livestock? How can men eat "good" meals—and still be undernourished? Animals cannot be healthy without receiving nutritious forage; and the forage, to have the proper quality, must come from soil containing the needed mineral constituents, as must all plants used for food—the final consideration being their nutritive value to man. Mineral deficiencies in human beings—which often lead to the condition described as "hidden hunger"—result from the consumption of this inadequately fortified food, vegetable, animal, or both.

This survey discusses many books and articles dealing with mineral nutrition and is a noteworthy addition to the mounting literature on the values of trace elements to plants and animals. It classifies mineral elements in nutrition and presents a sketch of the early history of plant nutrition—from Aristotle to Liebig.

An important adjunct to source material in the field of nutrition, it serves as a foundation for more intensive research in seeking better food for the health of the nations. Fully documented with illustrations and an excellent bibliography.

CHAPTERS

Early History of Plant Nutrition
Classification of the Elements Used
in Nutrition

Phosphorus	Iodine
Calcium	Boron
Magnesium	Molybdenum
Potassium	Aluminum
Sulfur	Silicon
Iron	Sodium and
Copper	Chlorine
Cobalt	Fluorine
Manganese	Arsenic, Lead,
Zinc	and Selenium
	Human Nutrition

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