• Books of the Week •

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AUREOMYCIN—A NEW ANTIBIOTIC—B. M. Duggar and others—*New York Academy of Sciences,* 168 p., illus., paper, $2.50. Sixteen articles originally presented at a conference in July, 1948, to discuss this important new medical weapon.

THE CERAMIC VOCABULARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT—James L. Kelso—*American Schools of Oriental Research,* 48 p., illus., paper, $1.25. Not a dictionary, but a discussion of technical terms appearing in the Bible from the point of view of both the ceramist and the archaeologist. Clay was used not only for dishes and bricks, but as a writing material, for religious objects, smelting furnaces, and in other important ways.

CHAMBERS'S TECHNICAL DICTIONARY: Comprising Terms Used in Pure and Applied Science, Medicine, the Chief Manufacturing Industries, Engineering, Construction, the Mechanic Trades—C. F. Tweney and L. E. C. Hughes, Eds.—*Macmillan,* rev. ed., 976 p., $6.50. A convenient reference book of British origin. Includes chemical formula.

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN—Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr., and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey—*Crowell,* 237 p., illus., $3.00. The gaily written biography of the inventor of "motion study" and his large family of lively children who also served as subjects for his experiments. The authors are two of the dozen.

HOW TO LIVE LONGER—Justus J. Schifferes—*Dutton,* 255 p., $3.00. The author tries to tell you what you can do to outwit the ten principal causes of death.

THE WAR LORDS OF WASHINGTON—Bruce Catton—*Harcourt, Brace,* 313 p., $3.00. The story of the great psychological effort of organizing the nation for war production and of the many battles of Washington as seen by a journalist who was in the thick of it.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

ENTOMOLOGY

New Insect Emigrants

➤ NEW INSECTS in this country are both good and bad news, American scientists were informed in the journal SCIENCE (Nov. 26).

Metoponia rubriceps is not good and may be bad.

Microtonus aethiops and *Campogaster exigua* are definitely fine.

Metoponia rubriceps was discovered on his lawn near San Francisco's Golden Gate Park by Dr. Edward L. Kessel, professor of biology at the University of San Francisco. They were identified by Dr. Maurice T. James, entomologist at the State College of Washington, as being Australian sod flies, probably the first found in the New World. Other specimens of the new-to-the-U. S. fly species have since been discovered in and near the park.

These flies do not do much damage in Australia, but Dr. Kessel points out that they might in this country. He explains that in California the flies may be away from natural enemies, and this situation could make them more dangerous here.

M. aethiops and *C. exigua* were brought to this country from France to help protect sweet clover. These French insects are parasites that live on the sweet clover weevil. They were obtained by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station through the cooperation of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, explain J. A. Munro and R. L. Post of the experiment station in Fargo.

The weevil has been doing extensive damage to U. S. and Canadian sweet clover since it first appeared in Canada in 1924. But even after 24 annual generations, the weevil seemed to recognize its parasite enemies, the North Dakota scientists reported.

One of the parasites was seen to "stalk" a "frantically retreating" weevil for a distance of 30 inches, they said. The parasite was finally triumphant and planted an egg in the body of the weevil.

This life-or-death race and other studies indicate that the parasites may become an important weapon against the weevil menace to an important pasture and soil-building crop.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

GENERAL SCIENCE

Free Research Will Beat Soviet Science, Bush Says

➤ SCIENCE on this side of the iron curtain will outdistance Soviet science based on the ideologies of Marx and Lenin, Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, predicted in his annual report.

Genetics of the communist variety, which teaches that those who utilize the Mendelian laws of inheritance are enemies of the state, Dr. Bush said, will become ultimately a grotesque collection of folklore and superstitions.

The fallacies of Soviet science, he said, "will gradually be so apparent to all as to force a revision in any situation where men's minds are still capable of the ordinary processes of human logic."

Freedom of science as practiced in the western world was defined by Dr. Bush as:

"Progress in the pursuit of knowledge is made rapidly and securely only when any hypothesis whatever may be entertained by individuals. The survival of hypotheses should be determined only by the rigor of test against cold facts and by the consequent mass of scientific support or denial, untrammeled by any arbitrary rulings from above."

Dr. Bush explained that in the extensive and far-flung research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington the free play of the scientific initiative of the staff is never circumscribed by preconceived notions on the part of the trustees or the president.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

ENGINEERING

Silica Substance Promises To Replace Frosted Bulbs

➤ A SILICA substance which acts as a nearly perfect diffuser of light gives promise of making the present inside-frosted electric incandescent bulb obsolete. It is said to give results superior to the diffusion from regular inside-frosted lamps without diminishing lighting efficiency.

The new development is a product of the General Electric lamp laboratory in Cleveland, and is credited to Marvin Pipkin who played an important part in the development of frosted bulbs nearly a quarter of a century ago. The new inside finish is being introduced in three new lamp bulbs, a 100-watt lamp, a 100-200-300-watt three-lite lamp, and a 150-watt lamp.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

CHEMISTRY

Crystal Used in Detection Is Produced in Pure Form

➤ A CHEMICAL crystal with an important application in the detection and measurement of radioactivity, known as calcium tungstate, is now being produced in water-white pure form, the Linde Air Products Company of New York has revealed. Calcium tungstate, a fluorescent compound containing calcium, tungsten and oxygen, is widely used in the manufacture of luminous paints and in screens in X-ray fluoroscopy.

Single crystals of pure calcium tungstate are being "grown" in rods about one-eighth inch in cross section and up to two inches in length, a company official stated. Representative samples of the crystals are colorless, and clarity varies from a transparent to a slightly cloudy product. At the present time, these synthetic crystals are available in research quantities.

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