

Books of the Week

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THE AMERICAN EPHEMERIS AND NAUTICAL ALMANAC FOR THE YEAR 1950—U. S. Naval Observatory—*Govt. Printing Office*, 632 p., \$3.50. The new edition of a world-renowned reference work.

THE ANCIENT FORESTS OF OREGON—Ralph W. Chaney—*Oregon State System of Higher Education*, 56 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Among the fossil leaves found there are those of the dawn redwood, and palm leaves where pines, firs and willows grow today.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE SOVIET UNION—Henry Field—*Smithsonian Institution*, 244 p., 5 pl., paper, \$2.00. A compilation of data based on Soviet published and unpublished materials, the majority of which were given to the author during his visit to the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. in 1945.

ENGINEERING METALS AND THEIR ALLOYS—Carl H. Samans—*Macmillan*, 913 p., illus., \$7.50. A text giving background of metallurgy for those who must use metallic materials.

ESSENTIALS OF ZOOLOGY—U. A. Hauber—*Appleton*, 394 p., illus., \$4.00. A college text in which the author avoids the traditional policy of isolation from world affairs because he feels that biology can be a civilizing influence.

GEOLOGY OF THE TESLA QUADRANGLE CALIFORNIA—Arthur S. Huey—*California Department of Natural Resources*, 75 p., illus., paper, \$1.54.

HEALTHFUL LIVING—Harold S. Diehl—*McGraw-Hill*, 3d ed., 595 p., illus., \$4.50. For individuals who want to enjoy a healthy life and avoid quacks, fads and unnecessary worries.

HEARING IS BELIEVING—Marie Hays Heiner—*World Publishing Co.*, 126 p., \$2.00. The autobiography of the president of the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center who is herself hard-of-hearing.

HISTOPATHOLOGY OF IRRADIATION FROM EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SOURCES—William Bloom—*McGraw-Hill*, 808 p., illus., \$8.00. The first of a series of books prepared as a record of the research done under the Manhattan Project—the report of three years of intensive war research.

MICROWAVE ANTENNA THEORY AND DESIGN—Samuel Silver, Ed.—*McGraw-Hill*, 623 p., illus., \$8.00. For the antenna engineer.

MIRROR FOR MAN: The Relation of Anthropology to Modern Life—Clyde Kluckhohn—*McGraw-Hill*, 313 p., \$3.75. A book for layman giving a basis for that understanding of other inhabitants of this world which is essential for living together peacefully.

PLANT ECOLOGY—W. B. McDougall—*Lea & Febiger*, 4th ed., 234 p., illus., \$4.00. For students, gardeners, and others interested in the relation of plants to their environment and to man.

PRINCIPLES OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGY—Cecil G. Lalicker—*Appleton*, 377 p., illus., \$5.00. A text devoted to a very popular branch of geology.

A PROGRAM FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION—Committee on the Function of Nursing—MacMillan, 108 p., \$2.00. A group of experts in various fields of medical and social sciences report their studies of problems centering around current and prospective nursing shortages.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

ICHTHYOLOGY

Leapfrog-Playing Shark Is Reported by Scientist

► **THE SHARK** that played leapfrog is not just another fish story. It is the strange event reported by a scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif.

The shark was spotted by John D. Isaacs of the Institution about 60 miles off the mouth of the Columbia River in the Pacific Ocean. The frisky shark, about seven feet long, leaped onto and then slid over a corrugated paper box.

It kept on leaping on the box about six times until the box was broken, Mr. Isaacs said.

More leapfrogging, this time by top-smelt fish, is described by Dr. Carl L. Hubbs of the Institution. Dr. Hubbs watched several top-smelt leap over a floating stick for nearly 15 minutes near a pier. These smaller fish, about six to nine inches long, seemed to find the sport contagious. Toward the end of the performance, Dr. Hubbs observed as many as ten of the fish jumping over the middle of the stick in close succession.

In reporting the cases of the leapfrogging fishes to the journal, *COPEIA*, (Dec. 31, 1948), Dr. Hubbs raises the question of why the fish jump. Is it, he asks, to remove parasites, or is it just "an outlet for exuberant spirit," or both? More scientific studies of "jumpy" fish will be needed to find the answer.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

MEDICINE

Blue Dye Saves Patient From Bleeding to Death

► **A BLUE DYE**, hailed for its potential usefulness in the event of atom bombing, rescued one woman in Shreveport, La., who was bleeding to death and made comfortable the last days of another patient.

These cases, showing the value of the dye in peacetime medical practice, are reported from the Shreveport Charity Hospital by Drs. J. E. Holobek, J. V. Hendricks and W. J. Hollis in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (Jan. 22).

The dye is toluidine blue. Its ability to control a bleeding tendency, such as follows large doses of ionizing radiations from the atom bomb or other sources, was suggested in studies by Dr. J. Garrott Allen and associates of the University of Chicago.

One of the Shreveport patients was practically dead from blood loss through oozing from the mucous membranes of her mouth and bowels and from tiny hemorrhages in her skin. Blood transfusions had no effect. The dye was injected into her veins and the bleeding stopped "dramatically." She recovered and has had a normal blood cell count for the past year or more.

A second case was a woman suffering from leukemia. The dye could not save this patient's life, but its dramatic effect in stopping the oozing and vomiting of blood kept her comfortable during the last week of her life.

In a third patient, the dye had no effect. This patient's bleeding was apparently caused by a different condition than the excessive heparin in the blood which the dye counteracts. She recovered after having her spleen removed.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

ZOOLOGY

Bands on Bats' Legs Show They Can Live Eight Years

► **BATS** of the species designated as Big Brown can live as long as eight years, it has been proven by identification bands on the legs of two individuals recently caught hibernating in a cave in Quebec by A. W. Banfield of the Dominion Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ont. Records showed that the bands had been attached to their legs eight years and three months before the date of their recapture.

Reporting this proof of bat longevity in the *JOURNAL OF MAMMALOGY* (Nov., 1948) Mr. Banfield also mentions evidence that the bats apparently didn't like the shining anklets which their earlier captors had bestowed on them. Many of the identifying bands had been chewed and were practically illegible.

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HOUSES OF EARTH

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