

# 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.

**ANALYTIC GEOMETRY AND CALCULUS: A Unified Treatment**—Frederic H. Miller—Wiley, 658 p., illus., \$5.00. Plane and solid analytic geometry, differential calculus, and integral calculus have been correlated as a single branch of mathematical analysis.

**ANNUAL REPORT**—Chicago Natural History Museum, 138 p., illus., paper, \$1.00.

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS OR LESS**—Mabel Altstetter—Association for Childhood Education International, 50 p., paper, 35 cents. Books that seem most childlike or most useful are listed. Classification, price and brief annotation are given.

**CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION**—Department of State—Gov't Printing Office, 25 p., paper, 10 cents. An analysis of the cultural exchange of persons and of the exchange of publications.

**THE EARHART PLANT RESEARCH LABORATORY**—F. W. Went—Chronica Botanica, 17 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, P.O. Box 151, Waltham 54, Mass. Description of a new laboratory where plants can be grown under simultaneously and independently controllable conditions.

**A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICHTHYOLOGY OF VENEZUELA**—Leonard P. Schultz—Smithsonian Institution, 211 p., illus., paper free upon request to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. The third report on collections made by the authors in Venezuela during 1942. No. 3235 of the proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.

**GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS**—Helen Shacter—Science Research Associates, 48 p., illus., paper, 60 cents. Latest in the series of SRA's Life Adjustment Booklets for young people.

**HEADACHES: What Causes Them, How to Get Relief**—Noah D. Fabricant—Farrar Straus, 149 p., \$2.50. A doctor's advice to the layman not intended to take the place of a visit to his own physician.

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS: Report of the Executive Committee, 1948**—F. J. M. Stratton, Ed.—Cambridge University Press, 109 p., paper, 5 shillings (Approximately \$1.00).

**LINDA RITA: Pre-primer**—21 p., 15 cents; **JUAN EL POBLANO: Pre-primer**—25 p., 20 cents; **EL BUEY QUE QUERIA VIVIR EN LA CASA: First Grade Reader**—45 p., 25 cents; **EL CERDITO QUE FUE AL MERCADO: First Grade Reader**—54 p., 45 cents; **PATOS SON DIFERENTES: First Grade Reader**—35 p., 25 cents; **LA GALLINA QUE QUERIA AYUDAR: First Grade Reader**—43 p., 25 cents; **EN EL CAMINO DE LA ESCUELA: Second Grade Reader**—76 p., 40 cents—Ann Nolan Clark—Gov't Printing Office, illus., paper. Seven texts prepared under the auspices of the Education Division of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs for the teaching of reading in Spanish by the 'sentence' method. Illustrations and text closely represent the life of children of the Latin-American countries.

**MANUAL OF CULTIVATED PLANTS**—L. H. Bailey—Macmillan, rev ed., 1116 p., illus., \$17.50. Provides fresh material and current nomenclature on plants commonly grown in the United States and Canada.

**MEDICAL ETYMOLOGY**—O. H. Perry Pepper—Saunders, 263 p., \$5.50. The history and derivation of medical terms for students.

**MEDICINE OF THE YEAR: First Issue 1949**—John B. Youmans, Editorial Director—Lippincott, 143 p., \$5.00. A review by leaders in various fields of medicine of the medical developments of an eventful year.

**OUR SUN**—Donald H. Menzel—Blackiston, 326 p., illus., \$4.50. A new addition to the Harvard books on Astronomy which are edited by Harlow Shapley and Bart J. Bok, telling how the sun affects the earth and human beings.

**PAINTING WITH LIGHT**—John Alton—Macmillan, 191 p., illus., \$6.00. A study of both the technical and the artistic aspects of lighting by one of the leading photographers. The illustrations are mostly by the author with three full-page colored photos.

**PARENT EDUCATION IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL**—Edith N. Norton—Association for Childhood Education International, 30 p., paper, 50 cents. A realistic approach is presented for those working in nursery education as well as parents and teachers of children of all ages.

**PHYSICS: The Story of Energy**—H. Emmett Brown and Edward C. Schwachtgen—Heath, 593 p., illus., \$3.20. Stresses the inductive method, the use of experimental data and a distinctive organization. A high-school text.

**QUANTITATIVE ORGANIC ANALYSIS VIA FUNCTIONAL GROUPS**—Sidney Siggia—Wiley, 152 p., illus., \$3.00. Gives working methods for determining organic compounds by the functional groups on the molecules. For the laboratory analyst.

**QUANTITATIVE PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY**—Glenn L. Jenkins, Andrew G. DuMez, John E. Christian, and George P. Hager—McGraw-Hill, 3rd ed., 531 p., illus., \$4.75. Brought up to date to conform to the new U. S. Pharmacopoeia XIII and the National Formulary VIII.

**STUDIES IN LATIN AMERICAN ART**—Elizabeth Wilder, Ed.—The American Council of Learned Societies, 106 p., paper, .50 cents. The proceedings of a Conference held in the Museum of Modern Art, New York, May 28-31, 1945, under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies, the National Research Council and the Social Science Research Council.

**VOLUNTARY PARENTHOOD**—John Rock and David Loth—Random House, 308 p., \$3.00. Why some couples have no children and others too many. Practical advice on family planning.

**WHY ARE YOU SINGLE?**—Hilda Holland, Compiler—Farrar Straus, 278 p., \$3.00. Studies of why men and women of marriageable age do not marry.

## Words in Science— MENTAL AGE—I.Q.

➤ BY repeated testing, psychologists have found out what problems can be solved by the average child at various ages. If a boy or girl can do the things that the average 6-year-old can accomplish, he or she is said to have a mental age of six.

I. Q. which stands for intelligence quotient, is found by dividing mental age by the age in birthdays. Thus if an 8-year-old boy has a mental age of six, his I. Q. is six divided by eight or 75. If on the other hand, the tests show that he can do what is expected of the average child of 10, his I. Q. is 125. Thus, "par" is 100. I. Q.'s above 100 are assigned to brighter than average children. Those below 100 indicate below average intelligence.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1949

## WILDLIFE

### Opossum's Diet Shows He Eats Just About Anything

➤ THE 'possum's reputation for eating just about anything it can get its teeth into is well borne out in a study of the contents of opossum stomachs made by Prof. W. J. Hamilton, Jr., of Cornell University.

Before the meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Washington he presented the inventory:

"The stomachs examined in New York State have been from animals collected by trappers, both summer and winter, or from highway victims. Fall and early winter foods include small mammals, green vegetation, wild fruits, amphibians, insects, birds, molluscs and grains. Spring and summer food includes toads, frogs, salamanders and snakes, small birds and mammals, fruits, insects and earthworms. Almost all food items are secured on the ground."

Prof. Hamilton also studied the food habits of raccoons as compared with opossums. He found a considerable degree of similarity, except that the raccoon appears to eat more insects and grains.

Science News Letter, June 25, 1949

### TRANSPAR PLASTIC KIT

A new method of mounting butterflies and moths, etc., in plastic.

Advantages are numerous:

1. Specimens are protected from pests.
2. Can be viewed from both sides.
3. Can be handled around without injury.
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