

THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN REGION: A Survey—Thomas R. Ford, Ed.—*Univ. of Ky. Press*, 308 p., maps, \$10. Comprehensive reports on the region's population, economy, institutions and culture, revealing the existing imbalance between population and resource potential.

THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS—Thomas S. Kuhn—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 172 p., paper, \$3. This Volume II, No. 2 of the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science presents in condensed and schematic form the author's view on the nature of accepted science theories, the emergence of scientific discoveries and the nature and necessity of scientific revolutions.

WESTWARD ON THE OREGON TRAIL—Marian T. Place with Earl Pomeroy—*Am. Heritage (Meredith Press)*, 153 p., illus., \$3.95. Colorful history, illustrated with paintings, prints and photographs of the period.

WHO LIVES AT THE SEASHORE? Animal Life Along the Shore—Glenn O. Blough—*Whittlesey House*, 48 p., illus. by Jeanne Bendick, \$2.95. Helps children explore the shore.

• Science News Letter, 82:244 October 13, 1962

RADIOLOGY

Radiation Hazardous to Man Increases Dog's Life

► RADIATION above the maximum permissible levels can prolong life—but it's a dog's life at best.

Daily exposures, hazardous to man, have increased the longevity of beagles and improved their reproductive capabilities, two scientists reported at the Colorado State University symposium at Fort Collins on the effects of radiation on reproduction.

Dr. George W. Casarett of the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry, N. Y., said his research on irradiation effects on 60 male beagles demonstrated that their death rate was half that of dogs in the control group which was not exposed to radiation. He suggested that continued radiation may reduce incidence of death from infectious diseases by raising the white blood cell count. White blood cells act as disease combatants.

The beagles receiving double the maximum radiation exposures to which humans are limited seem to maintain better reproductive capabilities, Dr. Casarett said.

The ovaries of the female beagle appear to be radiation-resistant, according to Dr. A. C. Andersen of the University of California's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"No form of partial or complete sterilization from whole-body x-irradiation has become apparent in ten years of continuous research with one colony of dogs," he said. Dogs used were exposed to sub-lethal doses, hundreds of times more than the yearly permissible dose for humans. Such acute exposure did cause accelerated aging and cancer, with resultant shortening of the life span, but it had no effect on reproduction, Dr. Andersen said.

At the same meeting, Dr. Roberts Rugh of Columbia University's radiology department warned that findings from radiation of experimental animals cannot be applied to similar X-ray exposure to reproductive organs of the human female.

"For rodents and non-anthropoid animals in general it is of interest to learn the effect of ionizing radiations on the reproductive

capacity. But for humans, quality as well as capacity of reproduction must be considered."

Dr. Rugh's warning is particularly significant since the studies of dogs, under-

taken by Dr. Casarett, were aimed at determining the safety factors in levels of environmental radiation at which persons may work without risking bodily harm.

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