

# Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review are listed. For convenient purchase of any U. S. book in print, send a remittance to cover retail price (postage will be paid) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

**ABC'S OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**—Allan Lytel—Sams, 126 p., illus., paper, \$1.95. Covers computer theory only at the block-diagram level, explains the principles and methods of programming through the use of actual examples.

**ABC'S OF ELECTRONICS**—Farl J. Waters—Sams, 96 p., paper, \$1.95. Attempts to explain fundamentals in terms of analogies, relating electronic principles to concepts familiar to everyone.

**ABC'S OF SHORT-WAVE LISTENING**—Len Buckwalter—Sams, 95 p., illus., paper, \$1.95. A short guide explaining the techniques and uses of short-wave radio.

**THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF PERU**—J. Alden Mason—Penguin, 329 p., photographs, maps, paper, \$1.45. Reprint (1957), archaeologist presents history of Peruvian culture, the social, political and intellectual life of the Incas, and their textiles and other crafts.

**THE ANTECEDENTS OF MAN**—W. E. Le Gros Clark—Harper, 374 p., illus., paper, \$1.95. Originally published in 1959, this introduction to the evolution of primates interprets the fossil evidence in accordance with paleontological principles as they are now understood.

**BEYOND THE CHAINS OF ILLUSION**: My Encounter with Marx and Freud—Erich Fromm—Simon & Schuster, 182 p., \$3.95. Psychoanalyst relates experiences during his adolescence which led to his later interest in the theories of Freud and of Marx.

**BIRTH TO MATURITY**: A Study in Psychological Development—Jerome Kagan and Howard A. Moss—Wiley, 381 p., illus., \$8.50. Book is result of a 30-year study of the link between child and adult behavior of a group of young adults of the Fels Research Institute's longitudinal population since their birth.

**CHALLENGE OF THE UNIVERSE**—J. Allen Hynek; student activities by Norman D. Anderson—McGraw, 143 p., illus. by Helmut Wimmer, \$2.50. Produced as joint project of NSTA and NASA, to serve as enrichment reading on astrophysics and celestial mechanics, at advanced high-school level.

**CHILDREN OF THE A-BOMB**: The Testament of the Boys and Girls of Hiroshima—Compiled by Arata Osada, transl. from Japanese by Jean Dan and Ruth Sieben-Morgen—Putnam, 256 p., illus., map, \$4.50. Collection of school compositions remembering August 6, 1945, written by grade school, high school and university students of Hiroshima.

**DISCOVERING THE WORLD OF SCIENCE**—Ellsworth S. Obourne and others—Van Nostrand, 408 p., illus., \$4.40. Intermediate level text with experiments, stressing science as a way of thinking about physical and biological phenomena.

**THE EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE**—Sir Bernard Lovell—Harper, 87 p., photographs, \$3. Based on author's Greygnog Lectures, with additional chapter of reflections on ethics and the cosmos.

**EXPLORING THE WORLD OF SCIENCE**—Ellsworth S. Obourne and others—Van Nostrand, 414 p., illus., \$4.80. Junior high school text, organized in terms of problems to be solved by student, stressing basic principles rather than technological applications.

**THE HANDBOOK OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS, 1962**: An Annual Descriptive Survey of Independent Education—Porter Sargent, 43rd ed., 1322 p., illus., \$10. Classified listing of leading private schools, descriptive text of schools by region, private schools illustrated, and directories.

**IRAN**: From the Earliest Times to the Islamic Conquest—R. Ghirshman—Penguin, 368 p., illus., 48 plates, maps, paper, \$1.95. Reprint (1954). Archaeologist outlines for the general reader the complex human history of the peoples between the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

**THE IRON CURTAIN**: Where Freedom's Offensive Begins—Harry and Bonaro Overstreet—Norton, 229 p., \$4.50. A sound analysis of what makes the raising of "curtains and walls" essential to Communist systems, and the best approach to reaching the people beyond these barriers.

**MAINTAINING FISHES FOR EXPERIMENTAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES**—William M. Lewis—Southern Ill. Univ. Press, 100 p., diagrams, \$5; paper, \$1.45. Discusses waters, aquarium building, selection of fishes, food, diseases and transport of freshwater fishes.

**MAN, NATURE AND GOD**: A Quest for Life's Meaning—F. S. C. Northrop—Simon & Schuster, 262 p., \$4.50. A philosopher's summing up of a life's search for relationship among man's broad range of activities, including science, literature, politics, communication and religion.

**MATHEMATICS FOR EVERYDAY USE**—William L. Schaaf—Doubleday, rev. ed., 349 p., illus., paper, \$1.45. Practical guide to arithmetic, algebra and geometry with applications to household accounts, property, budgets, taxes, insurance and investment.

**MEDICAL ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT HANDBOOK**—Donald A. Smith—Sams, 254 p., illus., \$6.95. Reference book and manual, presents information at the technical operator's level on laboratory instruments, diagnostic equipment and treatment devices.

**MICROWAVE HEATING**: In Freeze-Drying, Electronic Ovens and Other Applications—David A. Copson—Avi Pub. Co., 433 p., illus., \$13. Covers the technical material necessary for engineers, food technologists and biologists.

**OPTICAL MASERS**—O. S. Heavens, Ed., introd. by Charles H. Townes—Optical Soc. of Am., 142 p., illus., paper, \$5. Supplement No. 1 to "Applied Optics," presents the fundamental ideas and mechanisms involved in optical masers (or lasers) and those in nearby spectral regions, giving the reader a view of recent progress and glimpses of future problems.

**ORGANIC CATALYSTS** (OTS Selective Bibliography). Parts I-III. I. Aliphatic Compounds; II. Aromatic Compounds; III. Organic Polymers—OTS, SB-505-507, 18 p., 13 p., 13 p., paper, 10¢ each. Bibliography of reports listed in the abstract journals "U. S. Government Research Reports" and "Technical Translations."

**POINT TO THE STARS**—Joseph Maron Joseph and Sarah Lee Lippincott—McGraw, 96 p., illus., \$3.95. Informative book for the beginning astronomer, featuring the constellations and their locating.

**POLICE WORK WITH CHILDREN**: Perspectives and Principles—Richard A. Myren and Lynn D. Swanson—Children's Bureau (GPO), 106 p., paper, 35¢. Reflects the current thinking of specialists, intended to be of help to persons concerned with youth in conflict with the law.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF**

## VITAL STATISTICS

# Infant Death High in City

➤ IT IS MORE DANGEROUS to be born in a big city. Only one of the ten U.S. largest cities—Los Angeles—had an infant death rate lower than the national rate (1960) of 26.0 per 1,000 live births.

The great increase of low-income families living in large cities explains the high city death rate.

Increased numbers of prenatal clinics and other improved maternity care programs would help the situation, Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, chief of the Children's Bureau, pointed out, emphasizing the dangers of inadequate care during complicated pregnancies.

## Infant Mortality Rates for 1,000 Live Births

City	Rank	Total	White	Non-white
Los Angeles	1	24.5	22.3	31.1
New York City	2	26.3	21.6	42.6
Houston	3	28.5	23.8	38.2
Chicago	4	29.0	23.4	39.5
Detroit	5	30.9	25.6	39.7
Cleveland	6	31.0	26.2	39.8
Philadelphia	7	31.6	26.2	41.3
Baltimore	8	32.6	25.0	40.9
St. Louis	8	32.6	24.5	45.5
District of Columbia	10	36.4	29.4	39.6
United States		26.0	22.9	43.2

The nonwhite death rate for 1960 was higher than that for whites in each of the ten major cities. For the country as a whole, the rate for whites decreased 14.6 per cent in the ten-year period 1950 to 1960, and for nonwhites it fell 2.9 per cent.

**SPACE**, Seattle, Wash., May 1962—William P. Woods, Chmn.—NASA (GPO), 282 p., illus., paper, \$1.50. Papers and discussion on space vehicles and satellites, applications of space technology and report on manned space flight.

**REDUCING TAX RATES FOR PRODUCTION AND GROWTH**—Research and Policy Committee—CED, 56 p., paper, \$1. Statement on national policy by the Committee for Economic Research, proposing a prompt, substantial and permanent reduction of federal tax rates on both individual and corporate incomes.

**THE RESTLESS ATMOSPHERE**—F. K. Hare—Harper, 192 p., paper, \$1.35. An introduction to climatology, reprint of third revised edition (1961).

**RETARDED CHILDREN IN MAINE**: A Survey and Analysis—Elizabeth J. Levinson—Univ. of Maine Press, 265 p., paper, \$2.50. Reviews previous surveys, then describes methods employed, findings and conclusions in a survey of Maine children having IQ's at or below 75.

**SALT-WATER PURIFICATION**—K. S. Spiegler—Wiley, 167 p., illus., \$7.50. For economists, scientists and engineers, this textbook outlines the present state of knowledge, distillation methods, electro dialysis, freezing processes and ion exchange.

**SAM LOYD AND HIS CHESS PROBLEMS**—Alain C. White—Dover, 471 p., illus., paper, \$2. Unabridged and corrected republication (1913).

**SHORT GLOSSARY OF SPACE TERMS**—William H. Allen and B. A. Mulcahy, Eds.—NASA (GPO), 57 p., paper, 25¢. Compilation of brief definitions of terms frequently used by space technologists, from "aberration" to "zero g."

**THE STUDY OF ROCKETS, MISSILES AND SPACE MADE SIMPLE**—Walter B. Hendrickson, Jr.—Doubleday, 151 p., diagrams, paper, \$1.45. A review book in simple language, outlining the development of the space program.

**THE TORCH OF LIFE**: Continuity in Living Experience—Rene Dubos—Simon & Schuster, 140 p., \$3.95. A distinguished microbiologist's credo of what makes man distinct from all other forms of life.

• Science News Letter, 83:60 January 26, 1963

Among the states, Utah had the lowest death rate, 19.6 per 1,000 live births, and Mississippi the highest, 41.6.

The U.S. still ranks tenth among countries of the world with populations more than 300,000 in lowering its infant mortality rate, being surpassed by The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Finland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Denmark and New Zealand.

• Science News Letter, 83:60 January 26, 1963

## MEDICINE

# Sobering Drug Found Disappointing in Tests

➤ THE THYROID HORMONE drug triiodothyronine, which showed some promise in sobering up alcoholics quickly, had no effect on dogs tested experimentally at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Drs. Norma E. Fallis and Leon Tetreault, with D. Edwards Smith, senior, report tests on five mongrel dogs were made to confirm previous reports made by others on humans. They said the question deserves more study, particularly in human beings.

Their disappointing study, which appears in the New England Journal of Medicine, 268:91, 1963, was sparked by a previous report in that journal two years ago from St. Vincent's Hospital, Boston. The earlier report showed quick sobering effects on 12 alcoholics treated with the thyroid drug.

• Science News Letter, 83:60 January 26, 1963