

Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review since last week's issue 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. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

ABSTRACTS OF SOVIET MEDICINE: Part A, Basic Medical Sciences; Part B, Clinical Medicine; Vol. 1, No. 1—Martinus W. Woerdeman and others, Eds.—*Excerpta Medica Foundation*, Part A 98 p., Part B 185 p., paper, quarterly, \$15.00 per year for each part or \$25.00 for both. Abstracts in English prepared by the Soviet specialists most qualified and edited by a permanent editorial committee of 30 Soviet scientists.

ALLERGY—A STORY OF MILLIONS—Committee on Public Education, American Foundation for Allergic Diseases—*Public Affairs Committee*, Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 253, 28 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. It is estimated that some 17,000,000 Americans suffer from allergy. This booklet describes the various kinds and tells what can be done about them.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HUMAN NATURE—M. F. Ashley Montagu—*Porter Sargent*, 390 p., \$6.00. Purpose of the book is not just to interest and amuse, but to increase understanding of the nature of man, and of his capacity and need for love and cooperation.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WEST CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AND EAST CENTRAL ARIZONA—Edward Bridge Danson—*Peabody Museum*, Papers Vol. XLIV, No. 1, 133 p., 16 plates, paper, \$4.50. Through this survey it has been made possible to follow the prehistoric trade routes and note the ebb and flow of cultural movement.

BIOCHEMICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENDOCRINOLOGY: Experiments in Hormonal Research—Sir Charles Dodds—*Stanford University Press*, 76 p., illus., \$3.00. Lectures delivered at Stanford by a scientist from London.

THE CALCULATION OF ATOMIC STRUCTURES—

Douglas R. Hartree—*Wiley*, 181 p., diagrams, \$5.00. For users of the results of calculations and for those who may wish to make them, this book offers understanding.

A CHANCAY-STYLE GRAVE AT ZAPALLAN, PERU: An Analysis of Its Textiles, Pottery and Other Furnishings—S. K. Lothrop and Joy Mahler—*Peabody Museum*, Papers, Vol. L, No. 1, 38 p., 17 plates, paper, \$2.50. Description of ancient graves, one of which contained the mummy of a woman who was evidently someone of importance in a poor community. Twenty-two fabrics were found, some of which had been much mended before use in the burial.

THE DEVELOPMENT & MEANING OF EDDINGTON'S "FUNDAMENTAL THEORY": Including a Compilation From Eddington's Unpublished Manuscripts—Noel B. Slater—*Cambridge University Press*, 299 p., \$7.50. The text of this posthumous work together with the previously unpublished manuscripts show how the theory developed towards coherence.

DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL: An Introduction to Basic Principles and Cost Analysis—J. W. Perry and Allen Kent—*Press of Western Reserve University (Interscience)*, 156 p., diagrams, \$5.00. A report of research in progress.

EARTH SATELLITES—Patrick Moore—*Norton*, 157 p., illus. with drawings by Irving Geis, \$2.95. To give the general reader an idea of what is actually planned for the earth satellite program, and how to tell fact from fiction in the realm of outer space.

EVOLUTION IN ACTION—Julian Huxley—*New American Library*, 141 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. In this rapid survey of evolution, the author stresses its unity, including the history of mankind. Inexpensive, pocket-size edition of a book originally published by Harper.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE APPEARANCE OF PICTURE VARNISH—Robert L. Feller—*Mellon Institute*, 2 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Discussing the refractive index of picture varnishes as affecting the appearance of the paintings.

FORTETSA: Early Greek Tombs Near Knossos—J. K. Brock—*Cambridge University Press*, 224 p., illus., \$23.50. A lavishly illustrated report of a British party that excavated a series of early Greek tombs in 1933-1935. From the shape and decoration of the pottery and the grouping of burials it has been possible to establish a continuous sequence of ceramic phases covering a span of nearly four centuries.

HELPING YOURSELF WITH PSYCHIATRY: A Practical Guide to Wiser and Healthier Living—Frank S. Caprio—*Prentice-Hall*, 256 p., \$4.95. A book of psychiatric self-help for the unhappy and fear-ridden. The author is a psychiatrist.

HISTOLOGY—Arthur Worth Ham—*Lippincott*, 3d ed., 894 p., illus., \$11.00. Since the first edition of this book, effective magnification has been raised from something over 1,000 to perhaps 100,000. This edition contains a chapter on electron microscopy. Special consideration is also given to transplantation of tissues.

INDUSTRY AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS: Factors Governing the Speed of Application of Science—C. F. Carter and B. R. Williams on behalf of the Science and Industry Committee—*Oxford University Press*, 244 p., \$4.00. Many applications of science, it is shown, require the coordinated advance of a whole chain of firms. Necessary, too, is the preparation and proper distribution of trained talent.

JOHNNY'S FIRST VISIT TO HIS DENTIST—

Josephine Abbott Sever—*Children's Medical Center*, 29 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. A story you can read to the Johnnies in your own family to prepare them for what they may experience in the dentist's office, and so prevent unnecessary fears.

LATE MOGOLLON COMMUNITIES: Four Sites of the Tularosa Phase, Western New Mexico—Paul S. Martin, John B. Rinaldo and Eloise R. Barter—*Chicago Natural History Museum*, Fieldiana: Anthropology, Volume 49, Number 1, 144 p., illus., paper, \$4.00.

LIGHT SCATTERING BY SMALL PARTICLES—H. C. van de Hulst—*Wiley*, 470 p., diagrams, \$12.00. Hardly ever is light observed directly from its source, so everyone engaged in the study of light or its industrial applications meets the problem of scattering.

MARIANAS PREHISTORY: Archaeological Survey and Excavations on Saipan, Tinian and Rota—Alexander Spoehr—*Chicago Natural History Museum*, Fieldiana: Anthropology Volume 48, 187 p., illus., paper, \$4.50. A radiocarbon date of 1527 B.C. was obtained for a layer of oyster shell on Saipan. The four feet of cultural material below the oyster shell must be considerably older.

THE NILE: A General Account of the River and the Utilization of Its Waters—H. E. Hurst—*Constable (Macmillan)*, rev. ed., 331 p., illus., \$6.00. This great river is of particular interest to geographers and also to archaeologists, engineers, and hydrologists.

PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY NINETIETH REPORT 1955-56—John Otis Brew, director—*Peabody Museum*, 55 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, Cambridge, Mass. Reporting progress during the year in a variety of archaeological programs.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS & PSYCHOLOGICAL FRONTIERS: A Cooper Union Forum—Johnson E. Fairchild, Ed.—*Sheridan House*, 320 p., \$4.00. Outstanding individuals from various fields delivered these lectures in the Cooper Union series for Adult Education.

PREHISTORIC MAN—A. Leroi-Gourhan, Translated from French by Wade Baskin—*Philosophical Library*, 121 p., illus., \$4.75. Telling what archaeologists have been able to piece together about the lives of our most remote ancestors.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION BEYOND THE HIGH SCHOOL SECOND REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT—Devereux C. Josephs, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 108 p., paper, 55 cents. Addressed to the public, not to educators, this report discusses the need for teachers, need for assistance to students, need for planning of educational opportunities, financing and what the Federal Government can do.

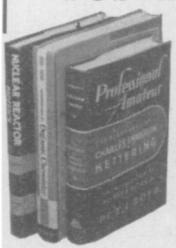
PROSPECTING FOR URANIUM—U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the U. S. Geological Survey—*Govt. Printing Office*, rev. ed., 217 p., illus., paper, 75 cents. Telling interested persons where to look for uranium, how to prospect for it and how to cash in on any finds.

RECENT PROGRESS IN HORMONE RESEARCH: Volume XIII, Proceedings of the Laurentian Hormone Conference 1956—Gregory Pincus, Ed.—*Academic*, 646 p., illus., \$12.80. The hormones function in practically every one of the vital processes that make for the development, growth, maintenance, adaptation and reproduction of living organisms.

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF COMMITTEE—Frank H. Brant, Chairman—*Highway Research Board*, 88 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Includes plans for roadside rest areas every 40 miles or so, or one hour's normal driving time.

SURGEONS ALL—Harvey Graham, foreword by Oliver St. John Gogarty—*Philosophical Library*, 459 p., illus., \$10.00. Tracing the fascinating history of surgery back to the New Stone Age when a Neolithic surgeon trepanned a sick man's skull. This is the oldest operation of which any evidence remains.

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TREE CARE—John M. Haller—*Macmillan*, 224 p., illus., \$5.95. Telling the home owner what trees need, how much he can provide himself and when he needs the services of a professional tree man.

VANISHED CITIES—Hermann and Georg Schreiber, translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston—*Knopf*, 358 p., illus., \$5.75. In this readable book, the authors restore the vanished peoples to long-ruined cities of the past.

Science News Letter, August 24, 1957

GEOPHYSICS

IGY Data Center Opens in Washington

► THE FIRST information center for the International Geophysical Year in the United States is now in operation by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in Washington, D. C.

The record center will house the complete original results of all IGY experiments on the earth's magnetism, earthquakes and the pull of gravity conducted in the Western Hemisphere. Data will be exchanged with foreign centers.

The office is one of 11 being set up in the U. S. and Alaska to record all data gathered in the various fields of scientific endeavor into which the IGY has been divided. The IGY, which started July 1, is an 18-month scientific assault on the earth, its seas and atmosphere.

Science News Letter, August 24, 1957

PHYSIOLOGY

Find "Growth Rings" In Snake Bones

► BONES of living creatures may show dry and wet seasons in somewhat the same manner as "growth rings" on trees.

Dr. Frank E. Peabody, zoologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, finds this is possible after studying a matching series of annual growth rings in several head bones of a Kansas bullsnake.

The snake bone growth rings consist of 11 narrow winter zones and 12 broad, summer zones, Dr. Peabody reports. Winter zones show a tendency to become wider and to appear double, suggesting a small, local increment of growth following the regular growth season—perhaps reflecting Indian summer.

In the middle of the 11½-year record in bone are two summer zones which are unusually narrow. Inasmuch as the bullsnake was known to have been killed in a specific year, 1931, the two summers of deficient growth during its midlife can be identified with reasonable accuracy as the summers of 1925 and 1926, according to Dr. Peabody.

The UCLA zoologist checked weather records of the area in which the snake lived and found severe droughts occurred in these two summers.

Thus the narrow growth zones may reflect a crisis in the snake's food chain. The drought affected summer vegetation and in turn the number of rodents on which the snake feeds.

Science News Letter, August 24, 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Pills Described As Fraudulent

► REDUCING PILL promoters are too fast for the Government and "make a killing" on a gullible public before they can be stopped.

This was reported by Miss Maye A. Russ, director of the food, drug and cosmetic division, National Better Business Bureau, Inc., New York, to a House subcommittee studying false and misleading advertising.

When the Government finally does catch up with the promoters they will quickly agree to discontinue the sale of the product and then, "in contemptuous disregard" of the law, start campaigning for a similar drug or the same one marketed under a different name.

The whole field of weight-reducing products is full of deception and outright fraud, and is particularly fertile for promoters because of the great number of persons worried about their weight, Miss Russ said.

None of the known weight-reducing products sold over the counter will in themselves cause a person to lose extra pounds. This can only be done by reducing the number of calories taken in through food.

Many products claim to induce the user automatically to eat less food. Almost invariably, however, these products are accompanied by a "plan" that requires the user to follow a restricted diet.

Many of the current so-called "miracle" drugs contain the compound phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride which was reported in 1939 as successful in curbing appetites. But the amount of the drug contained in reducing pills is far below the amount originally reported on.

The Post Office Department has forced many of the companies to discontinue the mail order sales of their products, but in some cases vigorous promotion of the products still goes on in drugstores.

Miss Russ called for a stronger Medical Fraud Unit of the Post Office Department and for greater use of criminal prosecution by the Department of Justice.

Science News Letter, August 24, 1957

MEDICINE

Boy Shakes Bullet From Brain After Shooting

► A RIFLE bullet that went through an eight-year-old boy's skull and lodged in his brain was shaken loose in about five weeks and removed from the same hole it entered.

The unusual case of "bullet migration" is reported by Drs. C. Verner Thompson, Lodi, Calif., Tom Huff, Stockton, Calif., and Warren Wass, Lodi, in *California Medicine* (July).

The youngster was riding a bicycle and looking back over his shoulder at a companion who, running to catch up with him, tripped and fell, discharging a .22 caliber rifle.

The bullet entered the victim's right forehead, traveled across the brain, and came to rest just under the skull on the other side. He was taken to the hospital half

conscious but within a few hours was out of shock and showed no signs of neurological damage.

He was given antibiotics against any possible infection and the devitalized brain tissue and a few fragments of bone and metal were removed. Then the head wound was closed and an anticonvulsant drug was administered.

He was discharged from the hospital and told to lie face down each night before going to sleep and jar his head against the bedding from time to time.

X-ray films taken at intervals thereafter showed the bullet to be slowly traveling back through the brain toward the point of entrance. Five weeks later it was close enough to the original wound to be removed along with several fragments of bone.

The youngster returned to school and has shown no physical or emotional signs of brain damage for a year and a half, the doctors report.

Science News Letter, August 24, 1957

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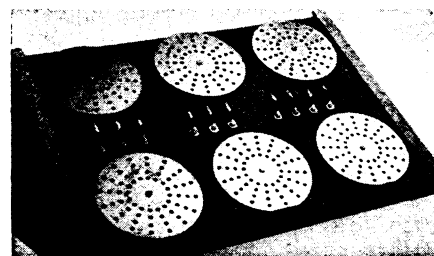
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