# 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 Missile Guidance—Ray Schapiro— Sams (Bobbs), 96 p., illus., paper, \$1.95. Simple outline of guidance systems.

Advances in Hypervelocity Techniques: Proceedings of Second Symposium—Arthur M. Krill, Ed.—Plenum Press, 795 p., illus., \$19.50. Significant developments in the production of hypervelocity environments and instrumentation.

Animal Behavior: Its Normal and Abnormal Development—L. V. Krushinskii, transl. from Russian; preface by T. C. Schneirla—Consultants, 261 p., diagrams, \$12.50. Describes author's investigations of the reflex concept of the activity of the brain.

Application of Statistics and Computers TO FUEL AND LUBRICANT RESEARCH PROBLEMS-R. E. Streets and R. D. Quillian Jr., Chmn.-Southwest Research Institute, 218 p., \$10. Proceedings of symposium held in March 1962 in San Antonio, Texas.

Archaeology From the Earth-Sir Mortimer Wheeler—Penguin Bks, 252 p., illus., paper, 95¢. About techniques and tools of excavation and reconstruction.

ASTRONOMICAL PHOTOGRAPHY: From the Daguerreotype to the Electron Camera-Gerard de Vaucouleurs, transl. by R. Wright-Macmillan, 94 p., 21 plates, \$6. Traces the stages through which photography passed while becoming the astronomer's indispensable tool.

Atmospheric Diffusion: The Dispersion of Windborne Material from Industrial and Other Sources—F. Pasquill—Van Nostrand, 297 p., \$10.75. Discusses physical problems that arise in the windborne movement and dilution of material released into the local atmosphere.

BASIC ANXIETY: A New Psychobiological Concept—Walter J. Garre—Philosophical Lib., 123 p., \$5. A theoretical treatise by Vienna-born psychiatrist.

BIOCHEMICAL APPLICATIONS OF GAS CHROMA-TOGRAPHY-H. P. Burchfield and Eleanor E.

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Storrs—Academic Press, 680 p., diagrams, \$22. Textbook and reference supplying both theoretical background and details of the applications of gas chromatography to biochemical problems.

CAREERS FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS: Anthropology, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology-Jo Hubbard Chamberlin-Walck, H. Z., p., photographs, \$3.50. To help young people in their career choice.

COMMUNIST CHINA'S STRATEGY IN THE NU-CLEAR ERA-Alice Langlev Hsieh, Rand Corp.-Prentice-Hall, 204 p., paper, illus., \$2.25. Annotated study of recent Chinese military thinking, based on published materials from the China mainland.

COMPARATIVE BIOCHEMISTRY, A Comprehenve Treatise, Vol. III: Constituents of Life, sive Treatise, Vol. III: Constituents of Life, Part A—Marcel Florkin and Howard S. Mason, Eds.—Academic Press, 959 p., \$30. Provides a systematic comparison of the biochemical phenomena of life throughout the phylogenetic scale, covering fatty acids and lipids, mono- and poly-saccharides, nucleotides, nucleic acids and water.

THE COMPLETE SLIDE RULE HANDBOOK: Principles and Applications—Joseph Norman Arnold—Prentice-Hall, 206 p., illus., paper, \$2.45. Reprint (1954).

DRUGS, MEDICINES AND MAN-Harold Burn-Scribner, 248 p., illus., \$4.50. About the action of drugs on the human body, written by professor of pharmacology for the general reader.

Education Directory, 1961-1962, Part 3: Higher Education—Office of Education—GPO, 217 p., paper, 75¢.

EDUCATION FOR THE PROFESSIONS: Sixty-first Yearbook, Part II—G. Lester Anderson, Chmn.; Nelson B. Henry, Ed.—National Soc. for the Study of Educ. (Univ. of Chicago Press), 312 p., \$4.50. Includes list of members' addresses.

ELEMENTS OF THE TOPOLOGY OF PLANE SETS OF POINTS—M. H. A. Newman—*Cambridge*, 214 p., diagrams, paper, \$2.95. Reprint of second edition (1951).

FACT AND THEORY IN COSMOLOGY—G. V. Mc-Vittie—Macmillan, 190 p., \$3.95. Reports astronomical observations relevant to cosmological theory, without detailed mathematical proofs.

GENETICS: Heredity, Environment and Personality—Warja Honegger, Hans Burla and Marco Schnitter—Dell, 120 p., illus., paper, 95¢. A visual text for adults, using four-color art work to illustrate scientific facts.

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HANDBOOK OF ELECTRONIC TABLES & FORMU--Donald Herrington and Stanley Meacham, Eds.—Sams (Bobbs), rev. ed., 192 p., illus., \$3.95. Formulas, laws, standards, symbols, installation and design data for the experimenter.

HEART: Anatomy, Function and Diseases—George Giusti and Rudolf Hoffman—Dell, 120 p., illus., paper, 95¢. Fundamental facts, presented visually for adults. sented visually for adults.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND THE NEW HU-MANISM—George Sarton—Indiana Univ. Press, 196 p., paper, \$1.95. Reprint (1937).

How to Build Electronic Equipment-J. Richard Johnson—Rider, J. F., 290 p., photographs, diagrams, \$6.95. Profusely illustrated, book outlines in twelve chapters essential procedures.

HUMORS, HORMONES AND NEUROSECRETIONS: The Origins and Development of Man's Present Knowledge of the Humoral Control of Body Function—Chandler McC. Brooks and others— State Univ. of N. Y. (Univ. Pubs.), 313 p., illus., \$7.50. Fully annotated study of the history of physiological thought.

Individualizing Instruction: Sixty-first Yearbook, Part I—Fred T. Tyler, Chmn; Nelson B. Henry, Ed.—National Soc. for the Study of Educ. (Univ. of Chicago Press), 337 p., \$4.50. Discusses theories and present school practices.

INTERCRYSTALLINE CORROSION AND CORROSION of Metals Under Stress—I. A. Levin, transl. from Russian—Consultants, 320 p., illus., \$18. Discusses corrosion of stainless steel, corrosion of carbon and low alloyed steels, and corrosion of light and nonferrous alloys under stress.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Vol. I, No. 1-Robert Colborn, Ed.-Conover-Mast Pubs., 75 p., illus, paper, monthly, \$10 per year, college rate \$5, without charge to professional scientists and engineers, write to publisher, 205 East 42nd St., New York 17, N.Y. Articles on thermoelectricity, hydrofoils, computers, and satellite astronomy.

Introduction to Higher Mathematics for the General Reader-Constance Reid-Crowell, 184 p., diagrams, paper, \$1.50. Reprint (1959).

Lectures on the Calculus of Variations-Oskar Bolza-Dover, 271 p., paper, \$1.65. Reprint (1904).

MANUAL OF THE TREES OF NORTH AMERICA (Exclusive of Mexico), 2 Vols.—Charles Sprague Sargent—*Dover*, 910 p., 783 illus. by Charles Edward Faxon and Mary W. Gill, paper, \$4 for set of 2 vols. Unabridged reprint of second (1922) edition.

Medieval Technology and Social Change—Lynn White Jr.—Oxford Univ. Press, 194 p., 10 plates, \$6. Scholarly examination of the imof technological innovation during the Middle Ages.

METHODS OF CARBOHYDRATE CHEMISTRY, Vol. Analysis and Preparation of Sugars-Roy L. Whistler and others, Eds.—Academic Press, 589 illus., \$20. Comprehensive reference on methods for use in both routine and experimental laboratory work.

THE METROPOLITAN PROBLEM AND AMERICAN IDEAS—Luther Halsey Gulick—Knopf, 175 p., \$3.75. First New York City Administrator proposes new approach to municipal government to meet the needs of urban life.

## INVENTORS REEDED

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Moala: Culture and Nature on a Fijian Island —Marshall D. Sahlins—Univ. of Mich. Press, 453 p., photographs, \$12.50. Anthropologist's field study of a primitive community, showing how it deals with nature and kinship groups in order to survive.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS THROUGH THE AGES-Anthony Baines, Ed.—Penguin Bks, 383 p., illus., paper, \$1.95. Historical study of the development of keyboard, violin group, harp, woodwinds and percussion, from primitive to contemporary.

THE NEW WORLD, 1939/1946: A History of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, Vol. I-Richard G. Hewlett and Oscar E. Anderson Jr .- Pa. State Univ. Press, 766 p., illus., \$5.50. Detailed, yet readable historical study, based on official records and individual recollections, of the group of men and events that led to the development of the atomic bomb.

THE NEW WORLD OF MATH—George A. W. Boehm and Eds. of Fortune—Dial Press, 128 p., diagrams, paper, \$1.50. Reprint (1959).

Nuclear Weapons and the Conflict of Conscience—John C. Bennett, Ed.—Scribner, 191 p., \$3.95. Essays by scientists and theologians, none of them absolute pacifists.

100 MILLION LIVES: Maximum Survival in a Nuclear War-Richard Fryklund-Macmillan, 175 p., \$3.95. Journalist describes "no-cities" plan of deterrence and controlled use of nuclear weapons.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE: Men and Concepts—Guy C. Omer Jr. and others-Heath, 601 p., illus., \$7.75. A general education course emphasizing the history of ideas in the physical sciences.

POLAND-Paul Cazin and Kazimierz Saysse-Tobiczyk, transl. from French—Hastings House, 62 photographs, map, \$4.75. Views of Poland with geographical, historical and archaeological notes.

Psychological Differentiation: Studies of Development—H. A. Witkin and others—Wiley. 418 p., illus., \$7.95. Concerned with deep-seated psychological patterns, their origin and stability as manifested by research and case studies.

Run, Light Buck, Run!—B. F. Beebe—Mc-Kay, 122 p., illus. by Larry Toschik, \$3. Story about a pronghorn.

SALT MARSHES AND SALT DESERTS OF THE World-V. J. Chapman-Interscience, 392 p., photographs, diagrams, \$14.50. Comprehensive work of value to ecologists, conservationists, agriculturists, geographers and the intelligent layman.

SCIENCE ABC—David Knight—Watts, F., unpaged, illus. by Gustav Schrotter, \$1.50. For the beginning reader.

SPACE: The Architecture of the Universe-Gottfried Honegger and Peter van de Kamp— Dell, 120 p., illus., paper, 95¢. Volume 1 of the new Visual series, conveying factual knowledge through integrated four-color drawings and texts written by scientists.

STEAMBOATS ON THE MISSISSIPPI—Ralph K. Andrist with C. Bradford Mitchell—Am. Heritage (Meredith), 153 p., illus., \$3.95. Handsomely illustrated with paintings, maps and photographs of the period.

STIPENDS AND SPOUSES: The Finances of American Arts and Science Graduate Students-James A. Davis and others—Univ. of Chicago Press, 294 p., \$5. A study of how U.S. graduate students support themselves while pursuing their studies.

THE STORY OF OUR TIME: Encyclopedia Year Book 1962-Marion Lockwood, Ed. in Chief-Grolier, 432 p., illus., \$10. Includes review of science and technology in 1961.

THE Swiss Alps-Vivian H. Green-Batsford (Hastings House), 240 p., 55 photographs, maps, \$6.95. Essays on the land and its people.

A VILLAGE THAT CHOSE PROGRESS: Chan Kom Revisited—Robert Redfield—Univ. of Chicago Press, 187 p., illus., paper, \$1.25. Reprint (1950).

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ANTS-Lynn and Gray Poole-Obolensky, 118 p., illus. by R. F. Peterson, \$3.50. Tells young adults about many fascinating aspects of ant life.

Wonders of Flight-Robert Wells-Dodd, 64 p., photographs, diagrams, \$3. Describes in simple language the aerodynamics of thrust, lift, drag and speed.

Wonders of the Rivers-Virginia S. Eifert-Dodd, 64 p., illus. by author, \$3. Attractive book about natural life in and along rivers.

Wonders of Sound-Rocco Feravolo-Dodd, 64 p., illus. by Christie McFall, \$3. Explains sound with simple experiments for young chil-

WORK AND LEISURE-Nels Anderson-Free Press, 266 p., \$5. Study examines significant relations between work and leisure as current ways of using time.

• Science News Letter, 81:236 April 14, 1962

#### MATHEMATICS

## **Soviet Scientists Decipher Mayan Script**

➤ SOVIET MATHEMATICIANS have succeeded in deciphering the hieroglyphic script of the ancient Mayas of Mexico and Central America with the help of modern electronic computing machines, the UNESCO Courier, monthly publication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, reports.

Using only 40 hours of computer time, Felix Shirokov, lecturer at the Moscow Power Institute, describes how this was accomplished. The team working on the problem was headed by S. L. Sobolev, director of the Soviet Institute of Mathematics, Siberian Division.

At the height of their civilization, the Mayas not only possessed astronomical observatories but had a calendar more accurate than the present Gregorian calendar, the article states. "The Europeans, however, showed no interest in the Maya calendar," and "the Conquistadores . . . burned the Maya books," Mr. Shirokov continues.

The article continues: "Only three manuscripts have been preserved; they are now in museums in Madrid, Dresden and Paris. The Paris codex was in a bad state from the time of its acquisition and the Dresden codex was badly damaged during the Second World War and may be considered as nonexistent; fortunately this manuscript had been published and research workers are able to use a printed copy. There are also a number of inscriptions on stone, done in a special 'lapidary' script. These, taken together, constitute the source of our knowledge of the Maya system of writing.'

Describing the task of deciphering the hieroglyphs, Mr. Shirokov writes that the Novosibirsk mathematicians used their electronic computer to find the frequency of letter combinations in the Maya language. Then the computer found the frequency of occurrence of the hieroglyphs in the Madrid and Dresden manuscripts. After that, there remained the job of correlating the frequencies.

An example from the translation follows: The young maize god fires pottery from white clay;

The god of death, the destroyer, fires a pot; The god of the North Star fires a pot; The yellow jaguar fires a pot.

Science News Letter, 81:237 April 14, 1962

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