

THE UNIVERSE OF STARS; edited by Harlow Shapley and Cecilia H. Payne. Cambridge Mass., 1926; The Harvard College Observatory, 205 pp., \$2.00.

Though radio talks on science in its various branches, including astronomy, have been given since the first days of broadcasting, as in the series given in Washington under the auspices of Science Service and the National Research Council, it was not until the fall of 1925 that any effort was made to give a comprehensive course of talks on general descriptive astronomy via the air. This series was given by members of the staff of the Harvard College Observatory through station WEEI of Boston, and now that they have been concluded, they are published in this attractive form.

Thirty-two articles make up the book, ranging in content from the use of a telescope to measuring the universe and the possibility of life in other worlds. As the staff of the Harvard College Observatory includes some of the best known names in astronomy, such as Dr. Shapley, the director, Miss Annie J. Cannon, the leading authority on stellar spectra, Dr. S. I. Bailey, Miss Payne, and others, the accuracy of the book is unquestioned. A number of well selected photographs, depicting various observatories and their work, are an added attraction, and help to make the book one to be heartily recommended to the general reader.

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THE ENDOCRINE ORGANS. Part II By Sir E. Sharpey-Schafer. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1926. \$7.00.

Knowledge of the functions of these chemical power-houses of our bodies is increasing so rapidly that every time a really authentic book is published it automatically makes all previous works out-of-date and becomes a necessity for all physiological investigators, teachers and physicians. This new edition of Sharpey-Shafer exhausts the subject, as known up to the date of publication.

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A tribe of bushmen in southwest Africa is so primitive that its only language is said to be a series of clicks of the tongue.

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Country seed dealers who once sold only half a dozen kinds of garden seed now carry 20 or more kinds that contain the valuable vitamins.

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Colored silks fade as much from 34 hours of exposure to sunlight as from 100 hours exposure to electric incandescent light of comparable brightness.

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