



Persimmons in Danger

GOLFERS and textile manufacturers may well unite in viewing with alarm the devastating outbreak of a new fungus disease that kills persimmon trees in very much the same manner that the Dutch elm disease kills elms. Persimmon wood is used in making the heads of wooden golf clubs and certain types of shuttles, and there is nothing quite so good for these purposes.

As yet, the area affected is quite limited, comprising not more than 750 square miles of persimmon timber in the neighborhood of Nashville, Tenn. But R. Kent Beattie of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, states that the new disease kills a tree with terrific quickness. Trees which were apparently healthy when he saw them late in July were totally dead when he revisited them just two months later.

The disease is so new that the fungus causing it has been identified only tentatively, and the source from which it came is still wholly unknown. It acts like a foreign plague in its quick and deadly effects, resembling such introduced fungus scourges as Dutch elm disease, white pine blister rust, and chestnut blight in this respect. But aside from some rather uncertain records of Japanese persimmon plantings in the general region, no exotic sources of introduction have yet been suggested.

Tobacco planters might rejoice to see persimmons wiped out, for the sprouts are stubborn weeds in fallow fields, costly to eradicate. On the other hand, persons interested in the conservation and restoration of wildlife would join with the golfers and textile men in lamenting its passing, for persimmons are a prime item in the diet of raccoons, opossums, and several other fur-bearing animals.

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• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews On Page 304

History

OF THE EARTH EARTHY: HOW OUR FATHERS DWELT UPON AND WOODED THE EARTH—Marion Nicholl Rawson—*Dutton*, 414 p., illus., \$5. Any one who takes any interest in the life of pioneers and colonists in this country will find this book full of fascinating information. It explains old fashioned ways, from ship building to the making of gunpowder and paint.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Grammar

ELEMENTS OF SENTENCE STRUCTURE—Henry W. Adams and Wilmer F. Jacob—*Prentice-Hall*, 315 p., \$1.75. The content of the book is determined by the frequency with which errors occur in the writing of students.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Automobile Mechanics

TIN LIZZY—Adam Allen—*Stackpole Sons*, 172 p., \$1.50. Tod and Ricky spend a summer working in Bill's garage and learn all about automobiles. Photographs of engines in various states of dissection plus some excellent diagrams accompany this sugar-coated short volume on automotive mechanics.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Parapsychology

NEW FRONTIERS OF THE MIND: THE STORY OF THE DUKE EXPERIMENTS—J. B. Rhine—*Farrar & Rinehart*, 275 p., illus., \$2.50. See page 298.

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General Science

WORKBOOK IN GENERAL SCIENCE—Hanor A. Webb and Robert O. Beauchamp—*Appleton-Century*, 312 p., 88 c.

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Biology

BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY TECHNIQUE—J. Brontë Gatenby—*Chem. Pub. Co. of N. Y.*, 130 p., \$3.

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Chemistry

WORKBOOK AND LABORATORY MANUAL IN CHEMISTRY FOR USE WITH ANY CHEMISTRY TEXTBOOK—J. Byron Jones, Louis J. Mathias, Jr., Rayman S. Weiser—*College Entrance Book Co.*, 312 p., 72 c.

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Physics

PRINCIPLES OF QUANTUM MECHANICS—Alfred Landé—*Cambridge (Macmillan)*, 119 p., \$2.25. Prof. Landé of Ohio State has developed in this book the principles of quantum mechanics on the ba-

sis of a few simple observations. Its purpose is to eliminate—if possible—some of the non-physical ideas which may creep into the interpretation of the theory; ideas which have no counterpart in empirical facts.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Mining

MINERALS YEARBOOK, 1937—H. H. Hughes—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 1502 p., \$2.25. For some 57 years the Government's annual summary of minerals and mineral industries has progressed in an unbroken line. In this volume, is summarized, mineral by mineral, state by state, all one needs to know of America's mining resources.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Psychology

THE COOPERATIVE SOLVING OF PROBLEMS BY YOUNG CHIMPANZEES—Meredith P. Crawford—*Johns Hopkins*, 88 p., illus., \$1.50. The report of research conducted at Yale's Laboratories of Primate Biology revealing that infrahuman animals are capable of cooperation and the use of gestures to induce others to join in common labor.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Craftwork

PLASTICS IN THE SCHOOL AND HOME WORKSHOP—A. J. Lockrey—*Governor Pub. Corp., New York*, 228 p., \$2.50. A short and profusely illustrated book on the working of plastics. Of interest to any one who has spent spare moments "puttering" in a cellar workshop.

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Three "MUST" books

Medicine

ALLERGY: Its Practical Application, by J. A. Rudolph, M.D. *Science News Letter*: "For physicians and medical students, by a specialist in allergy." \$3.00

Psychology-Education

KNOW THYSELF: A Study in Mental Qualities, by John Potts, M.D., D.C.L. *American Medical Association Journal*: "The author promulgates a hundred rules for evaluating the minds of those with whom the reader may come in contact." \$3.00

Health

POISONING THE PUBLIC: Daily Contacts with Toxic Materials, by Russell C. Erb. Prof. Erb's book covers poisoning from common foods, beverages, cosmetics, gases, plants, animals, industrial occupation. \$2.00

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