PLANT PATHOLOGY

NATURE RAMBLINGS

by Frank Thone

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.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews On Page 304

History

OF THE EARTH EARTHY: How OUR FATHERS DWELT UPON AND WOOED 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.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

General Science

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

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Biology

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

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

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.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

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 basis 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.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

•First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews On Page 303

Photography

TALKING PICTURES: HOW THEY ARE MADE, HOW TO APPRECIATE THEM—Barrett C. Kiesling—*Johnson Pub. Co.,* 332 p., $1.40. The making of motion pictures from selecting the scenario to shooting the story, from recording the sound to developing the film. Even the social influences surrounding the nation's gaudiest industry are considered. The book is astonishingly well gotten up, considering the low price.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Medicine

DOCTORS ON HORSEBACK: PIONEERS OF AMERICAN MEDICINE — James Thomas Flexner—*Viking,* 370 p., illus., $2.75. The son of Dr. Simon Flexner, one of America's modern medical leaders, has written a highly entertaining as well as informative book about early American medical leaders.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Anthropology

APES, MEN, AND MORONS—Earnest Albert Hooton—*Putnam,* 307 p., $3. Prof. Hooton's humorous touch in dealing with man's not too efficient biological status has enabled him to drive home many an anthropological point, where a more plodding style might fail. His highly readable book has the serious theme that the human race had better do something to stem a rising tide of stupidity, lest the moron become future lord of the earth. See also page 302.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Mathematics

MATHEMATICS IN LIFE—Raleigh Schorling and John R. Clark—*World Book Co.* 437 p., $1.40. Another volume in the ever-growing flood of books designed to convince a skeptical adolescent laity that mathematics is both "useful" and "interesting," if not romantic.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Physics

WORKBOOK AND LABORATORY MANUAL IN PHYSICS FOR USE WITH ANY PHYSICS TEXTBOOK—Hallie F. Turner—*College Entrance Book Co.,* 280 p., 72 c.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Engineering

MANUAL OF GEAR DESIGN. SECTION 3—Earle Buckingham—*Machinery,* 172 p., $2.50. SEC. 1-3, $7. Helical, herringbone and spiral gears are covered in this section of Prof. Buckingham's text on what gears for different purposes should look like and how they should be made. The book is reproduced from the author's own tables entirely by the photo-offset process, a photographic process that makes sure that no typographical errors will crop up to embarrass the user.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Engineering

ENGINEERING MECHANICS: STATICS—S. Timoshenko and D. H. Young—*McGraw-Hill,* 334 p., $2.75. A first textbook for engineering students.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Engineering

ENGINEERING MECHANICS: DYNAMICS —S. Timoshenko and D. H. Young—*McGraw-Hill,* 323 p., $2.75. A companion text to "Engineering Mechanics: Statics" by the same authors.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Heating

OIL FUELS AND BURNERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AUTOMATIC DOMESTIC TYPES—James A. Moyer—*McGraw-Hill,* 375 p., $4. An informational manual for the mechanics, engineers and service men who must keep in good working order the increasing thousands of automatic oil burners in use in America.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Chemistry

CHEMISTRY, MATTER AND LIFE — Stephen Miall and Laurence Mackenzie Miall—*Longmans, Green,* 296 p., illus., $2.60. A British book which is designed for the intelligent layman with only a few of the concepts of chemistry. The place of chemistry in the material universe and in the processes of life is the scope of the work.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Physics

ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM—S. Leroy Brown—*Holt,* 310 p., $2.80. A text for college students majoring in physics, written by the professor of physics at the University of Texas. The volume should be useful in engineering courses as well.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Chemistry

AN OUTLINE OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (Rev. ed.)—Ed. F. Degering and others —*Barnes & Noble,* 317 p., $1.25, paper, $2.25 cloth. Not a textbook but a supplement to any good text. It will be useful to college students majoring in organic chemistry or to graduate students in the same field.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Aeronautics

MY FLYING LIFE—Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith—*David McKay,* 284 p., $5. The life story of an aviator who, despite his tragic disappearance into the wastes of the Pacific, ranks as one of the greatest of the aerial pioneers, as written by Gregory Rawson from "Smithy's" papers and diaries. The book is filled more with adventure than with scientific details of how he made many of his flights in the days before aerial navigation had reached anything like its present development.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Mathematics

THE PSYCHOLOGY AND TEACHING OF ARITHMETIC — Harry Grove Wheat — *Heath,* 591 p., $2.80. West Virginia University's Professor of Education starts with a history of numbers and of the idea of "number" and works his way through a study of pedagogical methods to suggestions on how to teach arithmetic. Intended primarily for normal school use. Prof. Wheat pays particular attention to dispelling the idea that number is an intrinsic part of the material world.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Chemistry

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY (Rev. ed.)—Raymond B. Brownlee, William J. Hancock, Robert W. Fuller, Michael D. Sohon, Jesse E. Whitsit—*Allyn and Bacon,* 798 p., illus., $1.80.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Metallurgy

THE GOLDSMITH'S HANDBOOK CONTAINING FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ALLOYING AND WORKING OF GOLD (Rev. Ed.)—George E. Gee—*Chemical Publishing Co., of New York,* 263 p., $2.50. Covers methods of refining, alloying and working gold. A companion volume to the "Silversmith's Handbook," its name has been changed from the "Practical Gold-Worker" to make it conform with the other. It is written and printed in a style reminiscent of books a hundred years ago—adding in a sense to its interest.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Physics

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICS (New ed.)—Robert W. Fuller, Raymond B. Brownlee and D. Lee Baker—*Allyn and Bacon,* 812 p., illus., $1.80. A high-school text-book by three New York high school physics instructors.

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937