

Books of the Week

TO SERVE YOU: To get books, send us a check or money order to cover retail price. Address Book Dept., SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Ask for free publications direct from issuing organizations.

ADVANCES IN MILITARY MEDICINE—Committee on Medical Research—*Little, Brown*, 900 p., 2 vol., illus., \$12.50. The official story of the tremendously important research conducted during the war by the medical section of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. Much of it applies to civilian conditions as well as military.

ANGLER'S CHOICE: An Anthology of American Trout Fishing—Howard T. Walden II, ed.—*Macmillan*, 326 p., \$3.75. A collection of stories and articles to delight the fisherman.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF OHIO ARCHAEOLOGY—Richard G. Morgan and James H. Rodabaugh—*Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society*, 189 p., paper, \$2.50.

A CATALOGUE OF INSECTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES: Vol. 1, CHEMICAL INSECTICIDES—Donald E. H. Frear—*Chronica Botanica, Annales Cryptogamici et Phytopathologici*, Vol. VII, 203 p., paper, \$6.50.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS—Chalmer G. Kirkbride—*McGraw-Hill*, 419 p., illus., \$5.00. A text for an introductory course.

CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENTS AND EXERCISES—Andrew J. Burdick and Joseph J. Dudley—*Singer*, rev. ed., illus., paper, \$1.04. A laboratory book with detachable pages intended for use with any text.

THE COWRIE SHELL MIAO OF KWEICHOW—Margaret Portia Mickey—*Peabody Museum, Papers*, Vol. 32, No. 1., 83 p., illus., paper, \$2.50. The story of the daily life of a non-Chinese people living in a village in China.

THE DEFENSE OF WAKE—R. D. Heintz, Jr.—*Govt. Printing*, 75 p., illus., \$1.25. Official account, factual but thrilling, of the Marines' defense of Wake, seagirt Alamo of the naval war in the Pacific.

ELECTRONICS FOR INDUSTRY—W. I. Bendz with assistance of C. A. Scarlott—*Wiley*, 501 p., illus., \$5.00. A text for engineering students, it also includes much valuable reference material useful in practice.

FLORA HAWAIIENSIS: The New Illustrated Flora of the Hawaiian Islands—Otto Degener—*New York Botanical Garden*, 2d ed., looseleaf, illus., \$3.50. Books 1 to 4 brought together in one volume.

THE FUNGI OF MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN—G. R. Bisby and others—*National Research Council of Canada*, 189 p., illus., \$3.50. Scientific information about some 2,761 species.

FURTHER STUDIES IN THE GENUS DODONAEA—Earl Edward Sherff—*Field Museum of Nat. History*, Botanical Series, Vol. 23, No. 6, 48 p., paper, 75 cents.

GRIERSON ON DOCUMENTARY—Forsyth Hardy, ed., with American notes by Richard Griffith and Mary Losey—*Harcourt, Brace*, 324 p., \$3.75. Selections from the writings of a British film critic having to do with "documentary films" which term he is credited with originating.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: Vol. III, Organizing Higher Education—A Report of the President's

Commission on Higher Education—*Govt. Printing*, 74 p., paper, 30 cents.

HOMES—Editors of Progressive Architecture—*Reinhold*, 190 p., illus., \$5.00. A book for home builders and dreamers containing a wealth of photographs and plans.

HUMAN ANCESTRY: From a Genetical Point of View—R. Ruggles Gates—*Harvard University Press*, 422 p., illus., \$7.50. An account of the development of the modern races of man from Pithecanthropus to date.

INFORMATION PLEASE ALMANAC 1948—John Kieran—*Doubleday*, 960 p., \$2.00. A useful and up-to-the-minute book of facts. The science section is very small, limited to only eleven pages.

MICROMERITICS: The Technology of Fine Particles—J. M. DallaValle—*Pitman*, 2d ed., 555 p., illus., \$8.50. Revised and greatly enlarged edition of a text devoted to the behavior of small particles including the submicroscopic.

NASKAPI LAW—Julius E. Lips—*American Philosophical Society*, Transactions, New Series, Vol. 37, Part 4. 111 p., \$1.75. Law and order in a hunting society—the Lake St. John and Lake Mistassini bands. Of interest to anthropologists and legal historians.

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF MYCENA—Alexander H. Smith—*University of Michigan Press*, Scientific Series, Vol. XVII, 521 p., illus., \$6.00. A taxonomic revision of one of the larger genera of the gill fungi.

ORGANIC SYNTHESIS: An Annual Publication of Satisfactory Methods for the Preparation of Organic Chemicals, Vol. 27—R. L. Shriner, ed.—*Wiley*, 121 p., \$2.25. The work of a large number of contributors.

ORGANIZING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR WAR: The Administrative History of the Office of Scientific Research and Development—Irvin Stewart—*Little, Brown*, 358 p., \$5.00. This volume of the series Science in World War II is an official account of the tremendous job of organization.

PLANNING YOUR FAMILY—Herbert Yahraes—*Public Affairs Committee*, Pamphlet, No. 136, 32 p., illus., paper, 20 cents. Contains bibliography for further reading.

A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF HAWAIIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS RAUVOLFIA; ADDITIONS TO THE GENERA SCALEZIA AND HIDALGOA—Earl Edward Sherff—*Field Museum of Nat. History*, Botanical Series, Vol. 23, No. 7, 15 p., paper, 25 cents.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE OR GOVERNMENT IN MEDICINE—Louis Hopewell Bauer—*Thomas*, 201 p., \$5.00. A controversial subject discussed by a member of the board of trustees of the American Medical Association and president of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL STRESS ANALYSIS, Vol. V, No. 1—C. Lipson and W. M. Murray, ed.—*Addison-Wesley Press*, 136 p., illus., \$6.00.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1947—*Carnegie Corporation*, 81 p., paper, free from publisher: 522 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

THE ROAD TO GOOD NUTRITION—Lydia J. Roberts—*Govt. Printing Office*, Children's Bureau Pub. No. 270, rev. ed., 51 p., 15 cents.

ROAD TO THE SEA: The Story of James B. Eads and the Mississippi River—Florence Dorsey—*Rinehart*, 340 p., illus., \$4.00. The biography of the engineer who built the bridge bearing his name in St. Louis.

THE SIERRA NEVADA: The Range of Light—Roderick Peattie, ed.—*Vanguard*, 398 p., illus., \$4.50. A beautifully illustrated book of material on one of the country's most attractive beauty spots written by a group of specialists.

SPI HANDBOOK—*Society of the Plastics Industry*, 451 p., illus., \$7.50. A wealth of reference material for those making or using plastics.

THE TENNESSEE, Volume II: The New River, Civil War to TVA—Donald Davidson—*Rinehart*, 377 p., illus., \$3.50. A history of one of America's great rivers including the development of Muscle Shoals. One of a series.

THE UNITED NATIONS—Herbert Vere Evatt—*Harvard University Press*, 154 p., \$2.50. As viewed by Australia's Minister for External Affairs. The book is revised from the Oliver Wendell Holmes lectures given in 1947.

VEGETABLE GROWING—James Sheldon Shoemaker—*Wiley*, 506 p., illus., \$4.50. A text which will also be useful to the home and professional gardener.

WHOM THE GODS LOVE: The Story of Evariste Galois—Leopold Infeld—*Whittlesey*, 323 p., illus., \$3.50. The dramatic life story of an ardent lover of the republic in France who only after his death became known as a mathematician.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1948

AERONAUTICS

Rip-Stop Parachute Adds Safety to Plane Jumpers

► NEW fabric for parachutes, dubbed rip-stop material, adds safety in jumping from planes because of its strength and ability to stop tiny rips that sometimes occur in high-speed bail-outs before they spread to make the parachute useless.

Parachutes of the new fabric, which has been thoroughly tested in high jumps, will go into production this month and 5,000 will be made this year for use by the Department of the Navy. They will be made at the Naval Aircraft factory in Philadelphia.

The fabric is nylon. The rip-stop feature is heavy cross-threads at quarter-inch intervals. Tests show that this heavy thread will prevent a rupture in the fabric from extending into a long rip. The new fabric is light. With it 28-foot parachutes will weigh no more than the present 24-foot chutes, and can be packed in the same container. It also provides a slower rate of descent, about 20 feet per second as compared with 25 feet with ordinary parachutes.

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