

- HOW WELL CAN MANAGEMENT PREDICT?** An Examination of Prognostic Research, Its Utility and Limitations—William A. Hamor—*Mellon Institute*, 6 p., paper, free from publisher: Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
- LIFE: Its Nature and Origin**—Jerome Alexander—*Reinhold*, 291 p., illus., \$5.00. Life, the author believes, is dominated by catalysis—catalysts not only dominating the chemical changes essential to life, but constituting ultimate living units. Many fields of science are involved in the discussion.
- MEDICINE TODAY: The March of Medicine, 1946**—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 177 p., \$2.00. No. XI of the New York Academy of Medicine Lectures to the Laity. They cover a variety of subjects having to do with medical economics, education and research.
- MODERN COSMETICOLOGY**—Ralph G. Harry—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 3d ed. rev., 515 p., illus., \$12.00. A technical book.
- THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL REVIEW FOR 1946**—*National Research Council, Canada*, No. 1641, 146 p., paper, 75 cents.
- NEW METHOD FOR TESTING CATALYSTS**—J. A. Hinckley, Jr. and Harry R. Shepard, Jr.—*Mellon Institute*, 3 p., paper, illus., free from publisher: Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
- 1000 AMERICANS**—George Seldes—*Boni & Gaer*, 312 p., \$3.00. The editor of the newsletter "In Fact" writes about "Big Powers, Big Magazines, Big Business and Big Reaction" which he feels control the economy of this country.
- OUR STATE BIRDS**—Mary I. Curtis—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 122 p., illus., \$1.20. A book for children, nicely illustrated with drawings and colored plates.
- POPULAR MECHANICS FARM MANUAL**—Editors, Popular Mechanics—*Popular Mechanics Press*, 284 p., illus., \$3.00. A collection of how-to-do-it articles of special interest to the farmer profusely illustrated with photographs and diagrams.
- THE REHABILITATION OF SPEECH**—Robert West, Lou Kennedy and Anna Carr—*Harper*, rev. ed., 650 p., illus., \$5.00. A book for students and professional workers in the field of speech pathology and voice disorder.
- REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1947**—*Govt. Printing Office*, 169 p., paper, 75 cents.
- THE SECOND REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL**, Sept. 11, 1947—*Govt. Printing*, Dept. of State Publication 2932, 106 p., paper, 30 cents.
- SOME NOTES ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PIERRE JANET**—Elton Mayo—*Harvard University Press*, 132 p., \$2.50. Discussion of those aspects of the work of Janet believed to be of special interest to students of industrial and social psychology.
- SURVIVAL IN THE AIR AGE**—*Govt. Printing Office*, 166 p., paper, 75 cents. A report by the President's Air Policy Commission.
- SYSTEM FOR RAPID EVALUATION OF CATALYSTS FOR PRODUCTION OF BUTADIENE FROM ETHANOL**—M. H. Whitlock, G. J. Haddad, and E. E. Stahly—

- Mellon Institute*, 4 p., illus., paper, free from publisher: Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
- TERTIARY NAUULOIDS OF THE AMERICAS**—A. K. Miller—*Geological Society of America*, Memoir 23, 234 p., illus., \$4.50. A handsomely illustrated technical report.
- TEXTBOOK OF EMBRYOLOGY**—Harvey Ernest Jordan and James Ernest Kindred—*Appleton-Century*, 5th ed., 613 p., illus., \$7.50. For medical and premedical students.
- TEXTILE BRAND NAMES DICTIONARY**—*Textile Book Pub.* 1st ed., 377 p., illus., \$6.00.
- THOMAS JEFFERSON AMONG THE ARTS**—An Essay in Early American Esthetics—Eleanor Davidson Berman—*Philosophical Library*, 305 p., illus., \$3.75. New light on the life of a man who was scientist as well as artist and statesman.

ASTRONOMY-RADIO

Meteors Tell of Upper Air

➤ "SHOOTING STARS," those pinheads of stone or iron that frequently flash across the sky, are helping radio experts learn more about the upper atmosphere.

The heat generated by meteors racing through the rarefied air at a rate of 40 miles or so per second is sufficient to vaporize the smaller meteors so that they burn themselves out. But along the path they traveled is left a trail of hot ionized gases. What you see in the heavens is this trail of hot gases rather than the meteor itself.

These gases and others perhaps not so bright adjacent to the path the meteor followed 60 to 200 miles above the earth are highly ionized. Meteors travel with such high velocities that they are capable of producing ion trails tens of miles long and possibly even a half mile in diameter, Dr. A. G. McNish of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, told members of the Philosophical Society of Washington.

Instead of letting radio waves go through to the normal reflecting layer in the upper atmosphere, these ionized meteor trails reflect back to the earth radio waves of low frequency, letting high-frequency waves slip through. These reflected waves appear as large "pips" on the radar scope.

These reflections have been observed on radar sets using frequencies of 100 megacycles or lower, but are never picked up on frequencies as high as 3,000 megacycles. Observations were made at the Bureau's radio station at Sterling, Va., under the direction of V. C. Pineo.

The temporary ionization produced by the impact of meteors on the upper

atmosphere gives a good opportunity for studying how electrons that have been knocked out of atoms recombine. It helps scientists understand how the ionosphere propagates radio waves.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1948

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA—Vera Micheles Dean—*Harvard University Press*, 321 p., \$3.00. A thoughtful appraisal leading up to the answer to today's difficult question, is war inevitable? The author suggests possible means of averting it.

THE WEB OF GOVERNMENT—R. M. MacIver—*Macmillan*, 498 p., \$4.50. A Scotch-born sociologist, now professor of political sociology at Columbia University, writes on the philosophy of government.

WHAT TO MAKE FOR CHILDREN—*Popular Mechanics*, 110 p., illus., \$2.00. A variety of ways for the hobbyist-father to keep busy building furniture and playthings.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY—E. L. Thurston and E. H. Faigle—*Iroquois Pub. Co.*, rev. and enlarged ed., 359 p., illus., \$2.88. A postwar geography for grades seven and eight.

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