

# 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.

**AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC**—William L. Grossman—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 205 p., illus., \$4.00. Especially for airline employees.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION** — *Association of American Railroads*, 127 p., illus., paper, free from Association of American Railroads, Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C. Report of Subcommittee on Air Transport of the Railroad Committee for the Study of Transportation.

**THE ARTIFACTS OF UAXACTUN, GUATEMALA**—A. V. Kidder—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 76 p., 87 pl., paper \$2.15, cloth \$2.80.

**BETTER WAYS OF GROWING UP: Psychology and Mental Hygiene for Youth**—John E. Crawford and Luther E. Woodward—*Muhlenberg*, 270 p., illus., \$3.00. Written for boys and girls to answer their questions and providing self-quizzes to raise questions.

**CALCULUS AND ITS APPLICATIONS**—Raymond D. Douglass and Samuel D. Zeldin—*Prentice-Hall*, 568 p., \$5.15. A short course for engineering and science students.

**DANGEROUS WORDS: A guide to the Law of Libel**—Philip Wittenberg—*Columbia University Press*, 335 p., \$5.00.

**DESERTS ON THE MARCH**—Paul B. Sears—*University of Oklahoma Press*, rev. ed., 178 p., \$2.75. A new opportunity to read this story of how America's wealth is disappearing under our feet.

**DWARF FRUIT TREES**—Lawrence Southwick—*Macmillan*, 126 p., illus., 2.50. How to select and care for your own trees.

**EXCAVATIONS AT KAMINALJUYU, GUATEMALA**—Alfred V. Kidder, Jesse D. Jennings, and Edwin M. Shook—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 284 p., 207 pl., paper, \$7.00, cloth \$8.00. For those interested in archaeology and indigenous art.

**THE HEATHENS: Primitive Man and His Religions**—William Howells—*Doubleday*, 306 p., illus., \$3.75. The author, an anthropologist, has found "that there is hardly a limit to what the human mind can fancy, but also that there are certain typical forms in religion."

**HEATING AND VENTILATING'S ENGINEERING DATABOOK**—Clifford Strock—*Industrial Press*, 570 p., illus., \$7.00. A tremendous amount of useful information for engineers, architects, builders and others.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO CHROMATOGRAPHY**—Trevor Illtyd Williams—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 100 p., illus., \$4.00. A British text.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**—Ira D. Garard—*Wiley*, 3d ed., 396 p., illus., \$3.50. Intended not only for prospective chemists, but for students in many other fields.

**LABORATORY HANDBOOK FOR GENERAL CHEMISTRY**—Roland M. Whitaker and Alexander P. Marion—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 363 p., illus., paper, \$4.50. With ring binder.

**MODERN CEREAL CHEMISTRY**—D. W. Kent-Jones and A. J. Amos—*Northern Publishing Co.*, 4th ed., 651 p., illus., \$15.00. Information for the cereal chemist and those who have to do with the use of grains.

**MOST-OFTEN-NEEDED F.M. AND TELEVISION SERVICING INFORMATION**—M. N. Beitman—*Supreme Publications*, 192 p., illus., paper, \$2.00.

**NEW TERMINOLOGY AND THE INDEX-CATALOGUE**—Claudius F. Mayer—20 p., paper, free from the author, 5513 39th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. A paper presented at the Symposium on Medical Subject-Headings.

**OPIATE ADDICTION**—Alfred R. Lindesmith—*Principia*, 238 p., \$3.00. A sociologist discusses the nature of drug addiction and what it means as a social problem.

**OUT OF THIS WORLD: Anesthetics and What They Do To You**—Sylvan M. Shane—*Creative Age Press*, 110 p., illus., \$2.00. A director of anesthesiology writes to inform and reassure the patient.

**PROTEINS AND AMINO ACIDS IN NUTRITION**—Melville Sahyun, ed.—*Reinhold*, 566 p., illus., \$7.50. Discussions by workers in many specialized fields.

**SHOOT THAT NEEDLE STRAIGHT**—Robert Rantoul—*Bruce Humphries*, 220 p., illus., \$2.75. A lightly written story of the experiences of a diabetic.

**STATICS**—Joseph H. Kindle and Harry L. Miller—*Ginn*, 180 p., illus., \$2.60. A text for pre-engineering students.

**SURFACE CHEMISTRY FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH**—J. J. Bikerman—*Academic Press*, 464 p., illus., \$8.00. Especially for those in industry who are interested in the why of what is being done there.

**THE SYSTEMATIC IDENTIFICATION OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS: A Laboratory Manual**—Ralph L. Shriner and Reynold C. Fuson—*Wiley*, 3d ed., 370 p., illus., \$4.00.

**WEATHERWISE, Vol. 1, No. 1**—Charles A. Federer, Jr., Ed.—*Amateur Weathermen of America*—20 p., illus., \$3.00 a year. A new magazine for those interested in weather.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1948*

## CHEMISTRY

### Boy Extracts Gold from Sea Water by Own Method

➤ GOLD from sea water, the dream of modern chemists as transmutation was of ancient alchemists, has been realized on a laboratory scale by George Camamis, 17, a senior at New Brunswick High School, New Brunswick, N. J. He used a method of his own devising for the extraction.

He made several gallons of sea water highly acid with hydrochloric, and added a gram of barium chloride. This produced a precipitate, which he allowed to settle for several days, then decanted the

clear water above the precipitate into another vessel.

After neutralizing this water with sodium hydroxide and adding a very small quantity of barium chloride he obtained another precipitate, which again was allowed to settle for several days. Then he collected the precipitate, washed it with distilled water and dried it. This precipitate was supposed to contain the gold, in the form of a salt, barium aurate.

After drying the precipitate, he heated it with a blowpipe on a charcoal block, together with lead and borax. A glass bead resulted, in which a minute quantity of free gold was expected to be present.

Crushing the bead to a fine powder, he added mercury to pick up the gold and form an amalgam. Then he evaporated the mercury. A thin film of gold was left behind in his crucible.

Mr. Camamis reported his unique experiment in an essay submitted along with other qualifications that have won him a place among 40 winners of all-expense trips to Washington, D. C., to take part in the annual Science Talent Institute.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1948*



### Interested in Differential Thermal Analyses?\*

Speedomax records thermal reactions in six clay samples during one furnace heat; thereby saves the scientist's time. It also permits quick, accurate analyses of results, because six records are on one chart.

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\* Kulp, J. L., Kerr, P. F., *Science*, Vol. 105, p. 418, 1947.

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