

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. In the case of free publications order direct from issuing organization.

THE ALPHABET—A Key to the History of of Mankind—David Diringer—*Philosophical Library*, 607 p., illus., \$12.00. Beginning with primitive means of communication, this work traces the history of first non-alphabetic and then alphabetic writing. Written in a non-technical way interesting to the layman.

THE AMERICANA ANNUAL, 1948—An Encyclopedia of the Events of 1947—A. H. McDannald, Ed.—*Americana Corporation*, 777 p., illus., \$10.00. An account of a year that the editor terms one of "great confusion and disappointment."

ASTRONOMY—A Textbook for Colleges—William Lee Kennon—*Ginn*, 737 p., illus., \$ 5.50. The author points out that astronomy, in addition to being a worthwhile study in itself, provides a rich background for the other natural sciences.

BEGINNERS'S GUIDE TO WILD FLOWERS—Ethel Hinckley Hausman—*Putnam's*, 376 p., illus., \$3.50. Arranged by color for easy identification. Certain flowers are marked "pick sparingly" and others "do not pick at all."

GARDEN SOILS—Their Use and Conservation—Arthur B. Beaumont—*Orange Judd*, 280 p., illus., \$3.50. Liberally illustrated and clearly written especially for home gardeners.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY—An Ecological Study of Society—C. Langdon White and George T. Renner—*Appleton*, 692 p., illus., \$6. Text for a beginning course in college geography. Beautifully illustrated.

MAGNETIC RESULTS FROM HUANCAYO OBSERVATORY, PERU, 1922-1935—H. F. Johnston and others—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 609 p., illus., paper \$3.25, cloth \$3.75.

MAGNETIC RESULTS FROM HUANCAYO OBSERVATORY, PERU, 1936-1944—H. F. Johnston and others—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 385 p., paper \$2.00, cloth \$2.50.

MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS—George L. Ragan, Ed.—*McGraw-Hill*, 725 p., illus., \$8.50. Another in the MIT Radiation Laboratory series having to do with the principles and techniques underlying radar.

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA FOR 1947—*Geological Society of America*, 235 p., illus., paper, \$1.50.

PSYCHIATRY IN A TROUBLED WORLD—Yesterday's War and Today's Challenge—William C. Menninger—*Macmillan*, 636 p., \$6.00. Among the few good things that came from war, terrible as it was, we can count the awareness of the importance of our national mental health and its dependence on healthy emotions in the home. The author, who was Chief Consultant in Neuropsychiatry in the Army, evaluates the lessons taught by war.

Q. E. D.—M. I. T. in World War II—John Burchard—*Wiley*, 354 p., illus., \$3.50. A

description of what one privately endowed American institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, contributed toward our victory over the Axis powers, as told by the director of libraries of the Institute.

READINGS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE—Irving William Knobloch, Ed.—*Appleton*, 449 p., \$3.00. Selections from the writings of great naturalists presented in the hope of giving students an understanding of scientific method and "the forces that have reshaped our civilization and which now threaten to destroy it."

RECENT PROGRESS IN LAMINATED WOOD—*Northeastern Wood Utilization Council, Inc.*, 72 p., illus., paper \$2.00.

SCIENCE AND THE MODERN WORLD—Alfred North Whitehead—*New American Library*, 212 p., paper, 35 cents. A well-known book on philosophy originally published by Macmillan.

SMOKE—The Problem of Coal and the Atmosphere—Arnold Marsh—*Faber (Sherwood Press)*, 306 p., illus., \$7.00. A British publication about the problem of pollution of the atmosphere and how to combat it.

STUDIES OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY—*American Philosophical Society*, 126 p., illus., paper, \$1. Including some new source materials on "B. Franklin, Printer."

SUBSURFACE GEOLOGIC CROSS SECTION FROM BACA COUNTY TO YUMA COUNTY, COLORADO—John C. Maher—*University of Kansas*, 11 p., map, paper, 25 cents. Prepared by Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior with cooperation of State Geological Survey of Kansas.

TELEVISION—How It Works—John F. Rider, 203 p., illus., paper, \$2.70. A textbook for those who are learning to service these sets.

YOUR AQUARIUM—Brief, Clear Directions for Keeping Fishes and Plants in Health—William T. Innes—*Innes Pub. Co.*, 4th ed., 32 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. A beautifully illustrated booklet of hints to beginners.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1948

CHEMISTRY

Uranium Obtainable from Low-Grade Domestic Ores

➤ URANIUM, source of atomic energy, is now obtainable from low-grade domestic carnotite ores, by a new process on which U. S. patent 2,442,429 has been issued to two Ohio State University chemists, Dr. Ralph D. Nye and Prof. Dana J. Demorest. Release from dependence on overseas sources of higher-grade uranium ore might prove exceed-

ingly important to American economy and security.

In the new process, the finely ground ore is first treated with a hot solution of caustic soda or potash. This dissolves the three valuable metals present in carnotite: uranium, radium and vanadium—the latter important in metallurgy. The dark, slimy solution is washed free of the worthless sandy mineral matrix of the ore by upward currents of water.

Then sulfuric acid is added to the solution, followed by the addition of barium chloride or other metallic salt. This precipitates a dark sludge which contains most of the vanadium; this can be removed and processed as an ore concentrate to obtain that metal. The clear liquid remaining, which contains the uranium and radium, is again treated with caustic alkali solution, which brings down a precipitate containing the valuable uranium and radium in concentrated form.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1948

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