

# Books of the Week

For the editorial information of our readers, books received for review since last week's issue are listed. For convenient purchase of any U. S. book in print, send a remittance to cover retail price (postage will be paid) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE ATOMIC AGE—James B. Conant—*Oxford University Press*, 42 p., \$1.00. This lecture, delivered at the London School of Economics and Political Science, makes suggestions for building better understanding through closer cooperation in atomic research.

CAPACITIES OF PLUMBING STACKS IN BUILDINGS—Robert S. Wyly and Herbert N. Eaton—*Govt. Printing Office*, Bu. of Standards Building Materials and Structures Report 132, 28 p., illus., paper, 20 cents.

THE CORROSION RESISTANCE OF TIN AND TIN ALLOYS—S. C. Britton—*Tin Research Institute*, 77 p., paper, approx. 50 cents. Official report of an international institute financed by tin producers in the Belgian Congo, Bolivia, Indo-China, Indonesia, Malaya and Nigeria.

FUNCTIONAL ANATOMY OF THE MAMMAL: A Guide to the Dissection of the Cat and an Introduction to the Structural and Functional Relationship Between the Cat and Man—W. James Leach—*McGraw-Hill*, 2d ed., 276 p., illus., \$4.50. For students beginning work in anatomy. Emphasis is placed on the similarities and differences between cat and man.

HARWELL: The British Atomic Energy Research Establishment 1946-1951—*Her Majesty's Stationery Office*, 128 p., illus., paper, approx. 84 cents. Official report of what the British are doing in atomic research. A useful glossary and reading list are included.

A NEW MANUAL FOR THE BIOLOGY LABORATORY—Bernal R. Weimer and Earl L. Core—*Wiley*,

## NUTRITION

# Spice That Salt-Free Diet

➤ THOUSANDS OF persons with high blood pressure and heart disease have been put on a salt-free or low sodium diet by their doctors.

To many of them, especially at first, food tastes flat and there is no fun in eating. Others may put up with the diet for a time, till the monotony of it drives them to cheat a little.

The salt-free diet can be made tasty by the judicious use of spices. That this can be done safely is shown by studies reported by Dr. C. A. Elvehjem and C. H. Burns of the University of Wisconsin to the American Medical Association. They analyzed 100 samples of commercial spices for their salt, or sodium, content.

Out of 41 different spices only five were found to have concentrations of more than 0.1% sodium. And of these, only dried parsley and celery flakes contained enough salt to warrant ruling them out of low-sodium diets, according to the chemists. Many of the spices had between 0.01% and 0.02% concentrations of sodium and most

2d ed., 333 p., illus., paper, \$3.50. The student is urged to approach his laboratory studies with the vigorously curious mind of the investigator and to cultivate an open and tolerant mind.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL—Richardson Wood and Company—*Technical Cooperation Administration*, 62 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher or publication department, U. S. Department of State, Washington 25, D. C. A book of charts and photographs showing the investor graphically how he can invest his money to help other peoples make a world of peace and opportunity.

PATTERN DESIGN—Henry E. Kiley and John H. Paustian—*International Textbook Co.*, 2d ed., 193 p., illus., \$4.75. A practical book for the man who makes patterns for molding metal articles.

THE RATIONAL AND THE SUPERRATIONAL: Studies in Thinking—Cassius Jackson Keyser—*Scripta Mathematica*, 259 p., illus., \$4.25. A series of philosophical essays discussing some of the relations of science and religion and other problems.

SURVEYOR'S FIELD-NOTE FORMS—Clarence E. Bardsley and Ernest W. Carlton—*International Textbook Company*, 3d ed., 120 p., illus., \$3.00. Field notes, according to the authors, should not be kept on scraps of paper; they should be neat, legible, and systematic enough to qualify in court if necessary. This book shows you how.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1952

## ENGINEERING

# Italy Turns to Gas For Electrical Power

➤ ITALY SOON may have to turn to gas as a source of power to drive giant electric generators, Piero Ferrerio, president of the Edison Company of Milan, reported to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers meeting in Cincinnati.

Currently, water power largely is used to turn the generators. But Mr. Ferrerio said two-thirds of Italy's existing water sources which are suitable for use in electric power generation will have been exploited in about one more year.

However, he said: "At present, all activity in the natural gas field is practically concentrated under a Government monopoly, which among other things seems to follow a discriminative policy between consumers and a price policy certainly not encouraging increased consumption."

He said legislation was needed that would throw open Italy's gas reserves to all organizations capable of undertaking prospecting and utilization activity. The legislation should combine the interest of the general public and of the organizations.

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## ASTRONOMY

# Curious Stars Are New-Born Or Trapped in Gas Clouds

➤ SCATTERED THROUGHOUT our galaxy are curious variable stars embedded in great clouds of dust and gas. Some of these clouds are dark, others are lit up by a nearby star. The more astronomers study these stars, the more abnormal they prove to be.

These stars, named T. Tauri stars after recently formed by condensation out of the dust and gas of the nebulae, or they are stars that have, in their motion through space, accidentally plunged into the nebulae, Dr. George H. Herbig of Lick Observatory stated at the joint meeting of the American Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in Victoria, B. C.

If the stars are new, all of the stars in the cluster must have been formed out of the nebulae rather recently, astronomically speaking, Dr. Herbig reported. If they are old stars trapped by clouds of dust and gas, they were abnormal before they ran into the cloud, he concludes.

These stars, named T. Tauri stars after one of the best-known of their kind, brighten and fade in a most irregular and erratic manner. When their light is spread out into its rainbow colors, it indicates large quantities of the curious combination of hydrogen, helium, calcium and iron in the star. If their presence in the nebulae is an accident, their encounter with the clouds of gas and dust must have upset them, giving them peculiar spectra and variation in light.

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