

**NUMERICAL METHODS IN ENGINEERING**—Mario G. Salvadori—*Prentice-Hall*, 258 p., illus., \$6.65. The numerical approach is becoming more popular because, with modern calculators, it permits the use of workers with limited mathematical knowledge.

**PATHOGENESIS OF CANCER AND APPLIED THERAPY**—John E. Gregory—*Bruce Humphries*, 182 p., illus., \$7.50. The author expresses the hope that his research results may stimulate a stronger search for antibiotics that may be useful against cancer.

**POLARIZED LIGHT IN METALLOGRAPHY**—G. K. T. Conn and F. J. Bradshaw—*Academic Press*, 130 p., illus., \$3.80. On the applications of the microscope in metallurgy with particular attention to microscopic examination using polarized light.

**PROBLEMS OF AGING: Transactions of the Fourteenth Conference**—Nathan W. Shock, Ed.—*Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation*, 138 p., illus., \$3.00. At this conference, experts from several different professions met to exchange ideas, experiences, data and methods that would help in solving the problems of old age.

**PROPERTIES OF THE PRINCIPAL FATS, FATTY OILS, WAXES, FATTY ACIDS AND THEIR SALTS**—M. P. Doss—*Texas Company*, 244 p., \$5.00.

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

# "Quick Decline" of Dates

► **CALIFORNIA'S UNIQUE** Coachella Valley date industry is threatened with a mysterious "rapid decline" disease.

The date malady, thought to be caused by a virus, has cost Coachella Valley growers about 700 trees in the area around La Quinta and Palm Springs, estimates Dr. Ellis F. Darley, assistant plant pathologist at the University of California Citrus Experiment Station.

The disease can kill a mature date palm in two months from the appearance of the earliest visible symptoms. Some trees, he said, have succumbed in as little as 40 days; others have lasted six to eight months.

First effect, the University of California scientist explained, is dropping of the fruit. Then the center leaf dies and decline and death of the lower leaves follow.

Testing a date palm for evidence of a

Tabulating the properties of a host of materials in this field and listing more than 1,350 literature references.

**THE SHOALS OF CAPRICORN**—F. D. Ommanney—*Harcourt*, 322 p., illus., \$4.00. A scientist describes his experiences in the Indian Ocean aboard a 45-ton drifter.

**A SIMPLE METHOD OF TEMPERING CUTTING TOOLS REQUIRED BY THE APPLIANCE MAKER**—John L. Young—*Mellon Institute*, 4 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. "Temper color" requires a great deal of skill, but there are other methods to aid in determining when metal has reached the correct drawing temperature.

**THE SIPUNCULID WORMS OF CALIFORNIA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA**—Walter Kenrick Fisher—*Smithsonian*, 450 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, Washington 25, D. C. These wormlike creatures live in the water from the intertidal zone to oceanic depths.

**TRANSLATIONS FROM THE PHILOSOPHICAL WRITINGS OF GOTTLÖB FREGE**—Peter Geach and Max Black, Eds.—*Philosophical Library*, 244 p., \$5.75. Making available to English readers these logical essays long buried in inaccessible German periodicals.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

virus presents difficulties because it is impossible to bud or graft from one palm tree onto another. However, because most viruses have a carrier, insects found on declined palm trees are being placed on healthy ones to see if the disease follows. And since many viruses have a wide host range, juice from affected trees is being brushed on other plants like tobacco and several vegetables to see if they pick up signs of virus infection.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

**PSYCHOLOGY**

## Roadside Billboards May Keep You Alive

► **THOSE ROADSIDE** billboards that irritate many nature lovers may not be so bad after all when spotted along smooth curveless stretches of highway.

Experimenters at the Iowa State College Driving Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, report that easy-to-drive highways having few attention-getters often cause motorists to become less alert. The monotony of driving such a road dulls the senses and slows reflexes. That in turn ups the chances of auto accidents.

Bigger, better and brighter road signs were recommended to offset the effect. Occasional changes in pavement color and different kinds of roadside development also should help keep the motorist "on his toes," the scientists add.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

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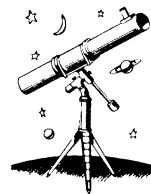
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