

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. books 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.

BIOCHEMISTRY AND HUMAN METABOLISM—Burnham S. Walker and others—*Williams and Wilkins*, 812 p., illus., \$9.00. Intended as a text for medical students, this work emphasizes human biochemistry. Clinical applications are combined with theoretical material.

CAMERA LENSES: A Handbook to Lenses and Accessories for Amateur and Professional Photographers—Arthur Lockett, Revised by H. W. Lee—*Pitman*, 3rd ed., 142 p., illus., \$2.50. This book for hobbyists and experts includes a few simple formulae and methods for testing lenses. Filters, view-finders and range-finders are also discussed.

FOOD SCIENCE: A Symposium on Quality and Preservation of Foods—E. C. Bate-Smith and T. N. Morris, Eds.—*Cambridge University Press*, 319 p., illus., \$8.00. A collection of lectures given at the University of Cambridge and revised for publication. Contains chapters on the chemical mechanisms of spoilage and methods of food preservation.

FOURTEENTH-CENTURY BLUE-AND-WHITE: A Group of Chinese Porcelains in the Topkapu Sarayi Müzesi, Istanbul—John Alexander Pope—*Freer Gallery of Art*, Publication 4089, 85 p., illus., paper, \$2.00. Based on the author's investigation of the Turkish collection of porcelains, which contains 10,000 pieces. He examined a small group of blue-and-white in an attempt to place them in the proper historical setting.

FROM THE DUST OF THE EARTH—William H. Lathrop—*Govt. Printing Office*, Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 78, 15 p., illus., paper, 10 cents. If the 460 million acres of good cropland left in the U. S. were divided among our present population, it would amount to about 3 acres per person. This bulletin tells how to safeguard the land.

GOOD READING—Committee on College Reading, Atwood H. Townsend, Chairman—*New American Library*, 20th Anniversary Edition, 226 p., paper, 35 cents. Included in this guide to more enjoyable reading are personal lists of basic books recommended by Carl Sandburg,

Aldous Huxley and others. Books classified under general topics are accompanied by short descriptions and present a representative selection.

INSECTS: 1952 Yearbook of Agriculture—Alfred Stefferud, Ed.—*Govt. Printing Office*, 952 p., illus., \$2.50. This year's volume is intended to help farmers and city folk to identify and get rid of their insect enemies.

MARGINAL PUNCHED CARDS IN COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES—Howard F. McGaw—*Scarecrow Press*, 218 p., illus., \$4.50. In addition to various systems and equipment discussed, suggestions are given for techniques and applications that will assist those who work with these cards.

MATERIALS SURVEY—U. S. Bureau of Mines—*Govt. Printing Office*, illus., paper. Antimony, 280 p., \$1.25; Lead, 574 p., \$3.50; Asbestos, 146 p., \$1.75; Nickel, 291 p., \$2.00. This survey of critical materials was compiled for the Materials Office, National Security Resources Board, to show what the emergency supply and demand is in the U. S.

NATIONAL SANITATION FOUNDATION STANDARDS: Soda Fountain and Luncheonette Equipment—Joint Committee on Food-Equipment Standards—*National Sanitation Foundation*, 58 p., illus., paper, 50 cents. Specifications for constructing and installing soda fountains in order to protect health.

OCEANOGRAPHY 1951: A Report on the Present Status of the Science of the Sea—NAS Committee of Oceanography, *National Academy of Sciences*, 36 p., illus., paper, \$1.00. Included in this publication is a review of the present facilities for oceanographic research in the U. S.

QUANTITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS—Leicester F. Hamilton and Stephen G. Simpson—*Macmillan*, 10th ed., 529 p., illus., \$4.50. This text has been extensively revised since its original publication under the title, Talbot's Quantitative Chemical Analysis. More space is devoted to theoretical discussions and laboratory directions are given to aid the student.

SEMIMICRO LABORATORY EXERCISES IN GENERAL CHEMISTRY—J. Austin Burrows, Paul Arthur and Otto M. Smith—*Macmillan*, 2nd ed., 302 p., illus., paper, \$3.50. At present over 700 students at Oklahoma A. and M. are performing these experiments with inexpensive semi-micro equipment and this manual.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN HANDBOOK: 1952—Howell Davies, Ed.—*Trade and Travel Publications* (H. W. Wilson), 29th ed., 782 p., illus., \$2.00. A book of British origin containing useful information for travelers and businessmen about various South American countries, their resources, climate, transportation, currency, etc.

SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES IN PSYCHOTHERAPY—Gustav Bychowski and J. Louise Despert, Eds.—*Basic Books*, 371 p., \$5.00. These papers, contributed by specialists, give you what you want to know about such special techniques as narcosynthesis, hypnoanalysis, group therapy and treatment of sex offenders.

THE SPIRIT AND PHILOSOPHY OF EXTENSION WORK: As Recorded in Significant Extension Papers—R. K. Bliss, Ed.—*Graduate School, USDA and Epsilon Sigma Phi*, 393 p., \$4.50. Describing the philosophy motivating your county agent and home demonstration agent, as well as telling some of the accomplishments of agricultural extension work.

THE TECHNOLOGY OF COATED AND PROCESSED PAPERS—Robert H. Mosher, Ed.—*Chemical Publishing Co.*, 733 p., illus., \$15.00. This volume succeeds one on Specialty Papers, and deals with operation and equipment for the converting of paper. For the engineer and chemist.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA, 1951-1952—C. J. Mackenzie, President—*National Research Council of Canada*, 46 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, Ottawa, Canada. A review in lay language of scientific investigations and projects now in progress. Written in both French and English.

Science News Letter, August 30, 1952

TECHNOLOGY

Oil Tankers Important To Merchant Fleet

➤ OCEAN VESSELS of the tanker class, to carry crude oil and petroleum products, have assumed a very important part in the merchant ship fleet recently.

America now has in its privately-owned ocean-going tanker fleet 451 vessels of nearly 6,741,000 deadweight tons. It is the world's largest tanker fleet under any one national flag.

While the bulk of the American tanker fleet operates in coast-wise and intercoastal trade, such as bringing oil from the Gulf states to eastern coastal refineries, many are in foreign trade and the number in this service has increased greatly in the past few years. These tankers are carrying petroleum products to and from the United States but they are also transporting oil from port to port in foreign countries.

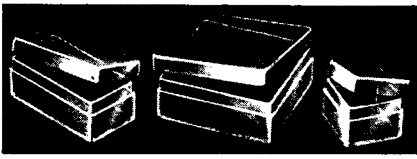
America has no monopoly in tanker transportation, however. Its tanker fleet is about 24% of the world's total, according to the National Federation of American Shipping in Washington.

In a recent study made by this organization it was found that, in both imports and exports, the U. S. tanker fleet is carrying a smaller portion, contrasted with foreign ships, than in the first years immediately after World War II.

American tanker owners are today contributing the major share of U. S. shipbuilding activity, the federation states. At present, 58 tankers of 1,582,645 deadweight tons are on order or under construction in American shipyards. Of this total, 31 are for registry under the American flag and 27 for registry under foreign flags. This total may look large but throughout the world there are under order or construction tankers that total over 11,000,000 in deadweight tons.

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Gold can be hammered into sheets so thin that they will transmit light.



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