

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 in U. S.) to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Request free publications direct from publisher, not from Science Service.

AGATIZED RAINBOWS: A Story of the Petrified Forest—Harold J. Brodrick—*Petrified Forest Museum Association and the Arizona State Highway Department*, 16 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. The brief text is profusely illustrated by gorgeous color photographs showing the jewel-like colors of the petrified wood and the rocks.

BRIDGING THE GAP—Edward R. Weidlein—*Mellon Institute*, 9 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh 13, Pa. One of the addresses at the installation of the section on Industrial Science of the AAAS.

CONCRETE ROADS—F. N. Sparkes and A. F. Smith—*Edward Arnold (Longmans, Green)* 492 p., illus., \$15.50. A book of British origin of interest to highway engineers.

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES—Richard D. Heffner—*New American Library*, 287 p., paper, 35 cents. The text of important historic documents from the Declaration of Independence to Gen. Marshall's description of the Marshall Plan, with commentary placing the documents in their historical context.

DRY BEANS, PEAS, LENTILS: Modern Cookery—Govt. Printing Office, USDA Leaflet No.

326, 24 p., paper, 10 cents. Welcome suggestions for menu bargains, budget-wise and nutrition-wise. Cooking time can be cut considerably by modern methods which retain full flavor, vitamins and minerals. (See p. 332.)

AN ESSAY ON METHOD—C. Hillis Kaiser—*Rutgers University Press*, 163 p., \$3.25. No longer, the author points out, are there horizontal dividing lines in our society between the uneducated and the cultured. Instead, the lines are vertical and separate those educated in one field from those of another. This work relates the methods of one discipline with those of others.

FACTS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND HEART DISEASE—Leonard J. Goldwater—*American Heart Association*, 10 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 44 East 23d St., New York 10, N. Y. A pamphlet in question-and-answer form intended to relieve the fear of the heart patient about his work.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL OF NEW YORK, 1852-1952—Joseph Hirsh and Beka Doherty—*Random House*, 364 p., illus., \$5.00. The story of the development of a well known New York hospital, and also of the community it has served.

A GENERIC SYNOPSIS OF THE LIZARDS OF THE SUBFAMILY LYGOSOMINAE—M. B. Mittleman—*Smithsonian*, 35 p., paper, 50 cents.

THE HALL OF LIGHT: A Study of Early Chinese Kingship—William Edward Soothill, edited by Lady Hosie and G. F. Hudson—*Philosophical Library*, 289 p., illus., \$7.50. A study of the ancient Chinese institution known as the *Ming T'ang*, which translates as given in the title. The ceremony was linked with royalty and also with priesthood and with the calendar.

HARWELL: The British Atomic Energy Research Establishment 1946-1951—*Philosophical Library*, 128 p., illus., \$3.75. Describing research conducted and measures taken to protect health and safety. A bound edition of a book originally published in paper in July, 1952, by *Her Majesty's Stationery Office*.

HIGHWAY SUFFICIENCY RATINGS—O. L. Kipp, Chairman—*Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 53, 69 p., illus., paper, 90 cents. Papers presented at an annual meeting of HRB.

INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE, PRESENT AND FUTURE: A Collection of Papers Presented at the Installation of the Section on Industrial Science of the AAAS at the Philadelphia Meeting on December 28-30, 1951—Ruth C. Christman, Ed.—*AAAS*, 152 p., paper, \$2.00. One of the purposes of the new section is to further the application of science in industry.

IT'S YOUR HOSPITAL AND YOUR LIFE—Lucy Freeman—*Public Affairs Committee*, 32 p., illus., paper, 25 cents. The hospitals of the United States can house 1,500,000 patients at one time and can care for one-tenth of the population annually. This booklet tells something of how they work.

LEGAL GUIDE FOR CALIFORNIA PROSPECTORS AND MINERS—L. A. Norman, Jr.—*California*

Division of Mines, 78 p., paper, 25 cents. Information about how to locate and hold claims, restrictions with regard to water use and pollution, safety regulations, etc.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: The Chemistry of the Compounds of Carbon—Lucius Junius Desha—*McGraw-Hill*, 2d ed., 595 p., illus., \$6.50. A complete revision makes this, in effect, a new textbook. Intended for college students who do not intend to continue with the study of chemistry.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY—E. E. Turner and Margaret M. Harris—*Longmans, Green*, 904 p., \$10.00. By authors at the University of London who describe the subject as a tourist guide would, giving the reader glimpses of chemical scenery of every sort which will encourage him to revisit the locality.

OTHER MINDS—John Wisdom—*Philosophical Library*, 259 p., \$4.75. Philosophical discussions on mind, consciousness, life and death reprinted from "Mind" and the "Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ON COOLING OF AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT 1952—Walter Robinson, Conf. Chairman—*College of Engineering, Ohio State University*, 216 p., illus., paper, \$3.50. With greater flight speeds and demands for reduced equipment size, the problem of heat dissipation has become more serious.

RETURNING CARDIACS TO WORK: A Guide for Private Physicians Prepared for the Committee on Cardiac-in-Industry of the American Heart Association—Leonard J. Goldwater, Lewis H. Bronstein and Beatrice Kresky—*American Heart Association*, 20 p., paper, free upon request to publisher, 44 East 23d St., New York 10, N. Y. Telling the doctor how to evaluate physical capacity and select proper employment for his patient.

THE SHOVEL-NOSED SNAKE, CHIONACTIS, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SUBSPECIES—Laurence M. Klauber—*San Diego Society of Natural History*, 56 p., illus., paper, 85 cents. Correction in name of publisher. Listed (see SNL, Oct. 18, p. 252) as from *Zoological Society of San Diego*.

A SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE OF DENTAL CARIES—Guttorm Toverud and others—*National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council*, 567 p., illus., \$3.00. The result of ten years' work of an NRC committee and their consultants to produce a critical review of the field.

YOUR HAIR

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204-6 Milk St., Dept. L102, Boston 9, Mass.

THESE HANDS ARE ABLE—F. E. Poole, Chairman—*American Heart Association*, 10 p., illus., paper, free upon request to publisher, 44 East 23d St., New York 10, N. Y. Studies show that workers with heart disease keep pace with unimpaired employees in work output. Intended to dissipate the misunderstanding of the work capacity of cardiacs.

VERDICT IN KOREA—Robert T. Oliver—*Bald Eagle Press*, 207 p., \$4.00. The author, on the faculty of Pennsylvania State College, gained his knowledge of Korea as counselor to President Rhee and to the Korean Commission in Washington.

THE WORLD OF ELI WHITNEY—Jeannette Mirsky and Allan Nevins—*Macmillan*, 346 p., illus., \$5.75. The story of the man who invented the cotton gin and was the father of mass production through his development of interchangeable parts for the musket.

YOU AND TUBERCULOSIS—James E. Perkins and Floyd M. Feldmann with Ruth Carson—*Knopf*, 176 p., \$2.50. Intended to supplement the physician's instruction so that the patient may be aided in giving necessary cooperation in his cure.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

MEDICINE

Electric Current in Chest Starts "Standstill" Heart

➤ A MACHINE that puts an electric current through the chest and heart may save lives threatened by heart "standstill," Dr. Paul M. Zoll of Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, reports in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (Nov. 13).

One patient's heart was kept beating by this machine for five straight days. During a period of 52 hours the ventricular muscles of the heart did not make a single natural beat when the electric stimulator was turned off.

The machine, called a thyatron stimulator, is the size of a table radio and can be plugged into any ordinary alternating current electrical outlet. It converts the electricity into waves or impulses which can be varied in length, strength and timing.

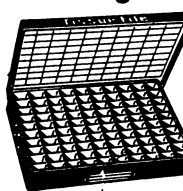
Two hypodermic needles stuck into the chest, one on each side, carry the current through the heart.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

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BIOCHEMISTRY

Mental Patients Benefit

➤ GOOD RESULTS in treatment of some mental patients with a relaxing drug called Prenderol were reported by Dr. Lowell S. Selling of Orlando, Fla., at the meeting of the Southern Medical Association in Miami.

The patients were suffering from anxiety with tension. They complained of "feeling bad," they could not concentrate. Some had strange notions, such as those of the woman who thought people shunned her because of body odor, even though her doctors assured her she had none. Some were afraid to trust people. Some had a "general undecipherable fear."

The drug Dr. Selling used was made as a drug to relax muscles and to serve as an anti-convulsant. Chemically, it is related to mephanesin, and is 2,2-diethyl-1,3-propanediol. The manufacturer, E. R. Squibb and Sons, did not suggest any use for it in mental patients, but Dr. Selling thought if it were relaxing in organic conditions, it might relax patients whose tension came from disturbed emotions.

This has so far proved to be the case. Some patients get over their tension, and return to normal and stop taking the drug. Some are relaxed enough so that psychotherapy can help them. The drug is, Dr. Selling says, "as harmless as most medications with any degree of potency can be." Exceptional patients may be found who cannot tolerate it.

Drawbacks to the drug are that the tablet is "large and ungainly," difficult to swal-

low and has a somewhat unpleasant taste. A 200-pound man may have to take eight tablets after each meal to get enough. It causes drowsiness, which is helpful for patients who have had trouble sleeping, but a drawback for the first day or two since it may limit the patient's activity. It is not habit-forming. However, Dr. Selling feels it should only be used by a psychiatrist until more research can be done on it.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

INVENTION

Sorter Separates Radioactive Ores

➤ RADIOACTIVE ORES are separated according to their degree of radioactivity with an apparatus invented by Christian M. Lapointe, Port Radium, Canada. The patent, number 2,617,526, is assigned to Eldorado Mining and Refining, Ltd., Ottawa.

The ore is fed past a Geiger counter. The impulses of radioactivity are translated into electrical energy to activate the sorting mechanism.

Science News Letter, November 22, 1952

Questions

AERONAUTICS—From how short a runway can the Helioplane take off with full load? p. 328.

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GENERAL SCIENCE—What is Nobelist Compton's new view of the world? p. 324.

• • •

GERONTOLOGY—What are the four essentials for treating undernourished older persons? p. 328.

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NUTRITION—How much iron in foods is actually absorbed? p. 325.

How does chilling tropical fruits affect them? p. 328.

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PHYSICS—What particle is postulated as the running mate of the neutrino? p. 329.

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SOCIOLOGY—How can evolution among western peoples now be controlled? p. 326.

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VETERINARY MEDICINE—Why should farmers keep cattle out of corn fields not yet dried out? p. 331.

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Photographs: Cover, National Institutes of Health; p. 323, Fremont Davis (left), J. M. Steinberg (right); p. 324, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Photo; p. 325, U. S. Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; p. 327, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company; p. 330, U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs; p. 336, American Name Plate & Mfg. Co.

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