

THIS MONTH'S MAIL ORDER SPECIALS

1. * **BEAM SPLITTER CUBES**
1 1/2" Sq. Ideal for Rangefinder Construction. Some with slight imperfections. Gov't. Cost \$44.
Your Cost \$5.50 PPd.

2. * **RANGEFINDER RETICLES**
All perfect Buckbee-Mears etching, Oval Ends. a) Scale Range, b) Index, c) Sighting, d) Ammunition Scale. 50¢ Each—5 for \$2.00
Complete Set (1), (2) a,b,c,d: \$7 PPd.

3. * **RHOMBOID PRISMS**
1" Sq. Faces, Total Length 2 1/4". Borosilicate Crown Glass, Made to highest Government Standards.
75¢ Ea.—2 for \$1.40 PPd.

4. * **RANGEFINDER PENTA ASSEMBLIES**
Bonded to Precision Steel Base. Front Surface Hard Coat Aluminized Reflectors. Each Mirror 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 3/4". Mirrors mounted at 45° angle on Borosilicate Crown Glass Base. Gov't. Cost \$145.
Yours for \$7.95 Ea.—2 to 5, \$14 pair

5. * **MIRRORS ONLY FOR ABOVE**
Flat to better than 1/10 wave. Ideal for Telescope Diagonals. Make your own Star Diagonal too.
\$2.05 Ea.—2 to 5, \$1.87 Ea.

6. * **TRAPEZOIDAL BASE FOR (4)**
Borosilicate Crown Glass, Faces ground flat, ready for Precision Polishing, Grade A Glass 3" x 1 1/2" x 3/4" thick. 4 for \$1.25—Include 10¢ postage

7. * **METAL BASE FOR (4)**
Precision Machined 25¢ Ea., 5 for \$1.
Add 15¢ postage

8. * **RETICLES ON MIRROR GLASS**
1 1/2" Dia.—Cross Pattern 5/8" long. Opaque background, Clear Cross. 50¢ Ea., 2 to 5, 35¢ Ea. PPd.

9. **LAMINATED FILTERS—4" DIA.**
Type A, CC20Y; Wratten #1; Ultra Violet Haze. Perfect Condition. While They Last, \$3.00 Ea.

10. * **LAMINATED FILTERS—9" DIA.**
Gov't. Red or Yellow only. Slight imperfections, \$10 ea. if perfect. Now \$5.50 Ea. plus 15¢ postage

11. **POLARIZING FILTERS**
Glass, Laminated — 1 piece 17mm. Rd., 1 piece 28mm. Excellent for converting your microscope for study of Crystals, Minerals. Smaller unit fits into eyepiece to rest on diaphragm.
SALE PRICE, \$2.00 Pair PPd.

12. **LIMITED OFFER**
Send for our "POT LUCK" Lens and Optical Kit. Amazing assortment of Lenses, Prisms, Filters, Etc.
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13. **FOR THE ROCKHOUND**
25 Mineral Stones arranged in attractive box; cover contains full description and frequency of each stone. SALE PRICE \$1.25 plus 15% postage. Excellent for classroom work. Special to Schools — 10 Sets, \$10.25. Add 25¢ postage.

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Lady's Slipper

➤ "CAPRICIOUS BEAUTY" is the meaning assigned to the lady's slipper in the sentimental language of flowers set forth in an old-fashioned "Flora's Lexicon" of three generations ago.

The beauty has a proper right to be capricious if she chooses, for the lady to whom the slipper classically belongs is the Lady Venus herself. Cypripedium is the name in the botany books; the last half, pedium, means a slipper and Cypris is one of the names of the most famous heart-wrecker on Olympus.

Our native lady's slipper species have a right to hold up their heads on another count also, for they are a near relative of the gorgeous exotic orchids, demanded as tribute by present-day capricious beauties, and although less bizarre in shape, they are not at all behind their tropical cousins in delicacy and beauty of coloring.

The most common species is a beautiful

clear pink, with occasional albino specimens that are pure white, but there is also a species that is fairly frequently found, with the slipper part a bright yellow and the twisted "strings" in yellowish brown.

The beauty of the lady's slipper has been appreciated not wisely and far too well by persons who have not been content to visit it in its native woods and bog-lands and let it alone there to raise its succeeding, slow-growing generation. They have ripped it up by the roots in great clumps, or even worse and more idly, have given blood-money to men who murder beautiful things for pay.

The flowers invariably avenge this ravishment by dying very quickly in the alien soil where they are set, with the consequence that in the more accessible lands around the cities at least, the lady's slipper is becoming more and more of a rarity.

Our grandchildren, perhaps even we ourselves in our old age, will have to make pilgrimages to hidden fastnesses of swamp or mountain to see this capricious beauty, the lady's slipper.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1955

CHEMISTRY

Protein Compound
May Start Cancers

➤ A COMBINATION of protein change and some unknown factor in the cancer cell is believed responsible for loss of control in cell growth that causes cancer, Dr. James A. Miller of the McArdle Memorial Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., told the American Chemical Society in Cincinnati.

"Whatever is the alteration from normal," Dr. Miller said, "it appears to be both irreversible and heritable. Such characteristics are almost certainly the result of changes in proteins or nucleic acids or both."

Dr. Miller has found that certain dyes known to cause cancer combine with proteins in the liver in such a way as to make these proteins useless to the body. Loss of the growth-control substance may be similarly caused by chemical combination, he said.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1955

Questions

ELECTRONICS—What development makes robot radar stations possible? p. 233.

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MEDICINE—Why are vaccines not 100% perfect? p. 229.

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NUTRITION—How can underweight babies be made to gain weight? p. 228.

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TECHNOLOGY—What are the most common places for installing a wire tap? p. 226.

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VIROLOGY—How many viruses are needed for a single infection? p. 233.

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