

## • First Glances at New Books •

► FAR ISLANDS are of much more interest to us nowadays than they were a few years ago. It is to be expected, therefore, that Cora DuBois's *THE PEOPLE OF ALOR* will attract a much wider audience than the cultural anthropologists who might otherwise have been its only readers. About half the book is taken up with autobiographies of notables among the Alor natives—genealogist, prophet, interpreter and so on—whose stories bring into sharper focus the impulses, fears and other life-shaping motives given general discussion in the first part of the text. (*Univ. of Minn.*, \$7.50).

*Science News Letter, July 22, 1944*

► A CURE in a delinquent of "that sneering sullenness, that arrogant aggression, that Storm Trooper mentality" characteristic of the psychopath, is claimed for the technique of hypnoanalysis, in an unusual case history from the United States Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa. The book is *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE*; the Hypnoanalysis of a Criminal Psychopath, by Robert M. Lindner. (*Grune*, \$4).

*Science News Letter, July 22, 1944*

► ENCOURAGEMENT and a challenge to educators appear in *BEHAVIOR CHANGES RESULTING FROM A STUDY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES* by John Urban (*Teachers College, Columbia University*, \$1.85). Senior class high school biology students, Dr. Urban found, did change their behavior significantly with regard to hygienic practices as a result of what they learned in the class. Similar desirable behavior changes in other fields, such as nutrition, may be achieved, the author suggests. He emphasizes, however, that the teaching must be designed specifically for the purpose.

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► A TEXTBOOK for students of physics, chemistry, and engineering which has stood the test of time in use in many technical schools is *HEAT AND THERMODYNAMICS*, by Mark W. Zemansky (*McGraw*, \$4). It is a second edition of a previous publication with some of the older material rewritten to bring it up to date.

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► A SYSTEMATIC and complete review of the concepts of modern physics is given in *PHYSICS OF THE 20TH CENTURY*, by Pascual Jordan, translated into English by Eleanor Oshry. It provides an analytical picture of the growth of physics and its relation to cosmic and biological processes. (*Philosophical Lib.*, \$4).

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### ● Just Off the Press ●

*BEHAVIOR CHANGES, RESULTING FROM A STUDY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES*—John Urban—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.*—110 p., \$1.85.

*CHEMICAL MACHINERY: An Elementary Treatise on Equipment for the Process Industries*—Emil R. Riegel—*Reinhold*—583 p., illus. \$5.

*CHIANG KAI-SHEK: Asia's Man of Destiny*—H. H. Chang—*Doubleday*—375 p., illus. \$3.50.

*FATS — OILS — DETERGENTS: A Looseleaf Abstract Service*—*Interscience*, illus., \$36 per year. Binder \$3. First year, 1944, 12 issues.

*GET IN SHAPE*—Ida Jean Kain—*McKay*—94 p., illus., \$1.

*HEAT AND THERMODYNAMICS: An Intermediate Textbook for Students of Physics, Chemistry, and Engineering*—Mark W. Zemansky—*McGraw*—389 p., illus., \$4.

*MAN DOES NOT STAND ALONE*—A. Cressy Morrison—*Revell*—107 p., \$1.25.

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

Core—*Wiley*—213 p., illus., \$2.

*PEST CONTROL IN THE HOME GARDEN*—Louis Pyenson—*Macmillan*—190 p., illus., \$2.

*PHYSICS OF THE 20TH CENTURY*—Pascual Jordan—*Philosophical Lib.*—185 p., \$4. Trans. by Eleanor Oshry.

*PROCESS AND POLARITY*—Wilmon Henry Sheldon—*Columbia Univ. Press*—153 p., \$2.

*REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE: The Hypnoanalysis of a Criminal Psychopath*—Robert M. Lindner—*Grune*—296 p., \$4.

*REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR 1943*—Peter H. Buck—(Te Rangi Hiroa)—*Bishop Museum*—30 p., illus., paper. Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 182.

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#### MEDICINE

## New Germ Killer

May be a weapon against typhoid fever, dysentery and infected wounds and burns. Called, streptothricin, it comes from a microbe that lives in the soil.

► A POSSIBLE weapon against typhoid fever, dysentery and infected wounds and burns is seen in streptothricin, a germ-killer from a microbe that lives in the soil. Studies pointing to this were reported by Dr. Harry J. Robinson, Otto E. Graessle and Miss Dorothy G. Smith, of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research (*Science*, June 30).

Streptothricin was discovered in 1941 by Prof. Selman A. Waksman and Dr. H. B. Woodruff, of Rutgers University and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. So far, however, very little has been reported on its effect in animals or its toxicity.

So far as toxicity is concerned, mice were not harmed by 10 to 12 times the effective dose when streptothricin was given by mouth or by hypodermic injections under the skin, the Merck investigators report. Given by injection directly into the veins, however, this amount killed some of the animals.

"Mice heavily infected with a variety of gram-negative organisms," the scientists report, "are completely protected by the administration of small amounts of streptothricin."

The drug is less effective when given by mouth than when injected, but doses by mouth greatly reduce the number of lactose-fermenting bacteria in the intestinal tract. This similarity to certain sulfa drugs suggests that streptothricin

may be of value in bacillary dysentery and typhoid.

Its marked action in test-tube experiments against both gram negative and gram positive organisms, together with the fact that body fluids apparently do not inhibit the drug's action, suggest it might be of value in infected wounds and burns.

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#### MEDICINE

## Oil of Eucalyptus Tree Fights Malaria in China

► OIL from the leaves of eucalyptus trees is being used to fight malaria in China, according to a report received by the Chinese News Service.

The eucalyptus oil is used instead of kerosene or crude oil, difficult to obtain in China under war conditions, to destroy malaria-carrying mosquitoes in their breeding places. Dr. Liu Chung-lo, professor at the National Tsing Hua University in Kunming, reports that he has found the eucalyptus oil far more effective for this purpose than either kerosene or crude oil.

In order to develop a process which can be used in rural areas, Dr. Liu is using the most primitive equipment in his distillation process for obtaining the oil from the leaves.

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