

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. book 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.

AAR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES 1954—*Association of American Railroads*, 40 p., illus., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, AAR, Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS NUMBERS 43-48—M. W. Stirling, Director—*Govt. Printing Office*, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 157, 415 p., illus., paper, \$2.75. Reports of recent research.

THE BOOK OF AMERICAN INDIANS—Ralph B. Raphael—*Arco*, 144 p., illus., \$2.00. For children, but also of interest to their elders.

THE BOTANY OF COOK'S VOYAGES: And Its Unexpected Significance in Relation to Anthropology, Biogeography and History—Elmer Drew Merrill—*Chronica Botanica*, 219 p., illus., \$4.75. Discussion of what plant species were or were not present in a given Pacific Island in the decade following 1769 when the first extensive collections were made in Tahiti.

CUMULATIVE INDEX TO THE FIRST FIFTEEN SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS JANUARY 1947—DECEMBER 1953—U. S. Atomic Energy Commission—*Govt. Printing Office*, 118 p., paper, 35 cents.

DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN PROVERBS — David Kin, Ed., with preface by Mark Van Doren—*Philosophical Library*, 290 p., \$6.00. "Proverbs must be single sentences that hit and run."

EDUCATORS GUIDE TO FREE TAPES, SCRIPTS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS—Walter A. Wittich and Gertie L. Hanson, Eds. — *Educators Progress Service*, 144 p., paper, \$4.75.

THE EVOLUTION OF AN INSECT SOCIETY — Derek Wragge Morley—*Scribner's*, 215 p., illus., \$3.95. An English entomologist describes life in a commune of five separate but friendly nests of wood ants. Then he traces the origins of some of their behavior.

FINANCING HOSPITAL CARE FOR NONWAGE AND LOW-INCOME GROUPS: Volume 3 of Financing Hospital Care in the United States — Harry Becker, Ed.—*McGraw-Hill*, 110 p., illus., \$2.50. Considering the problem of how the "medically indigent" can obtain the care they need.

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS 1954—Jerome C. Hunsaker, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 74 p., paper, 55 cents. This is the administrative report without technical reports. It tells of the struggle to keep ahead in the race of aeronautic research in spite of decreasing appropriations.

NEW TECHNIQUES FOR EFFICIENT TEACHING

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Prospectors' Supplies

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HANDY MAN'S PLUMBING AND HEATING GUIDE—Maurice H. Reid and Byron B. Courtney—*Arco*, 144 p., illus., \$2.00. To assist the home owner in making simple repairs and adjustments and to understand those done for him.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF SOILS: Grain Size and Liquid Limit — A. M. Wintermyer and others—*Highway Research Board*, Bulletin 95, 37 p., illus., paper, 60 cents.

A NEW PICTOGRAPHIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SITTING BULL—Alexis A. Praus—*Smithsonian*, 4 p., 7 plates, paper, 35 cents. A set of self-portraits drawn and colored by the famous Indian warrior for a little girl whose parents were kind to him while he was a prisoner.

OBITUARY NOTICES OF FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY — *The Royal Society*, 264 p., illus., 30 s. Brief biographies and portraits of deceased leaders of science in England.

ONE HUNDRED MATHEMATICAL CURIOSITIES—William R. Ransom—*J. Weston Walch*, 212 p., illus., paper, \$3.00. A collection of amusing jokes, puzzles, games and oddities.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION: A Statistical Record 1921-1953—*Association of American Railroads*, 43 p., paper, free upon request direct to publisher, AAR, Transportation Building, Washington 6, D. C. Statistics assembled from reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

SEVENTEENTH SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION—Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman—*Govt. Printing Office*, 138 p., illus., paper, 45 cents.

SOUTH COL: A Personal Story of the Ascent of Everest—Wilfrid Noyce—*William Sloane*, 300 p., illus., \$5.00. This poetically written book with its lovely illustrations lets you know what it is like to reach the heights.

THE TRUE BOOK OF ANIMAL BABIES — Illa Podendorf—*Childrens Press*, 47 p., illus., \$2.00. A book of colored pictures and easy text telling how baby animals need and receive care.

THE TRUE BOOK OF DINOSAURS — Mary Lou Clark—*Childrens Press*, 47 p., illus., \$2.00. Introducing young children to the strange beasts of long, long ago.

THE TRUE BOOK OF WEEDS AND WILD FLOWERS—Illia Podendorf—*Childrens Press*, 47 p., illus., \$2.00. A beautiful book for little children.

VERY MUCH ALIVE: The Story of a Paraplegic—Terry McAdam—*Houghton Mifflin*, 146 p., \$3.00. Telling how men can learn to live with a handicap that results in paralysis from the waist down (or from the neck down), to work and even have fun.

WHEN THE MIGRANT FAMILIES COME AGAIN: A Guide for Better Community Living—Interdepartmental Committee on Children and Youth—*Govt. Printing Office*, 27 p., illus., paper, 15 cents. The coming of migrant laborers for a brief stay during the harvest presents the community with varied problems of health, education, and social opportunity. Here are suggestions for handling them.

WORLD OUTSIDE MY DOOR—Olive Bown Goin—*Macmillan*, 184 p., illus., \$3.50. For the reader interested in animals and how they live and the ways biologists have of finding out about them. The author's door is at the edge of a woodland in Gainesville, Fla.

Science News Letter, February 26, 1955



Spring Flowers Now

► THIS IS the time of year when one is apt to take a pessimistic view of the poet's rhetorical query, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" It seems, indeed, very far behind as we approach the middle of winter's last half.

Yet you can have spring flowers now. They will brighten up your home, conjure you out of your late-February blues and convince you that perhaps the poet was right after all.

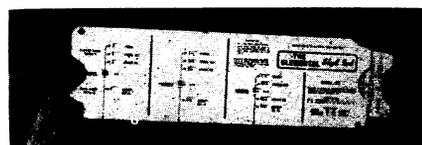
All you have to do is to go out and cut a few sprigs from one of the spring-flowering trees or shrubs. Lilac, cherry, apple, or perhaps, best of all, forsythia or golden bells will usually give good results. Select a branch that has rather large buds, for these are most likely to conceal the coming flowers.

Put your sprigs in a vessel of water in a warm place and be sure to see that the water does not dry out or become foul or sour. In not too long a time, about a week or two, you should see the twigs respond to the artificial spring temperature you have created with an offering of foliage and bloom.

Actually, this is what the florists have done in essence when they force the woody branches now offered in the early spring market. There are other tricks, too, that the ambitious layman can do if he wishes to get his spring flowers ahead of time. The simplest is merely to pre-immersion the

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