

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Water Supply. By WILLIAM P. MASON. Fourth Edition. New York, John Wiley and Sons. x + 528 pages, 6/9. \$3.75 net.

The fourth edition of Professor Mason's well-known book on water supply testifies to the high esteem in which this book is held by the American engineering public. Published originally in 1896 it has passed through subsequent editions, each time being substantially enlarged and improved. For the present edition a large amount of the text has been entirely rewritten and suitable amount of new material added. The tables have been brought up to date and new photographs introduced. Some of the most noticeable changes are the following:

The chapter on Drinking Water and Disease has been strengthened by the addition of many pages devoted to typhoid fever. The work of recent years is drawn upon to set forth present-day conceptions in regard to the existence of the typhoid bacillus outside its human host and in "carriers." The distribution of the disease and factors operating in its transmission are also discussed. Considerable material has been withdrawn from this edition relative to the now discredited theory of water-borne malaria.

Newly developed methods of water purification, particularly processes aiming at disinfection, come in for consideration, as do certain newly found factors influencing natural purification in streams and stored waters. The use of chlorine ozone, ultra-violet light and copper sulphate receive attention. There is considerable discussion of various phases of the pollution of drinking water supplies and the care of watersheds.

Revisions and additions appear frequently throughout the chapters dealing with ground water and with the corrosive action of water. The appendices deal with entirely new subjects and are brief.

Professor Mason is always a pleasing writer and has the art of abstracting the important data from the writings of others and presenting them in an attractive form. Although this can not be called an exhaustive treatment

of the subject it is one of the most interesting and suggestive treatises on water supplies published since the old book of the same title by Professor William Ripley Nichols, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Sarcophaga and Allies in North America. By J. M. ALDRICH. Published by the Entomological Society of America. Lafayette, Indiana, 1916.

In 1915 the Entomological Society of America, recognizing the difficulty of adequately publishing monographs on American insects, established the Thomas Say Foundation for this purpose. Subscriptions were solicited, and the accumulating funds were set aside to be used from time to time as suitable works might be offered for publication. The plan is not unlike that of the English Ray Society, which has been publishing important zoological works for many years. Very appropriately, the Foundation is named after Thomas Say, the founder of American entomology. The first monograph issued under these auspices is now before us, and is a revision of the Sarcophagid flies, commonly known as flesh-flies, by Dr. J. M. Aldrich. These flies, which are very abundant in America and Europe, and in some cases of considerable economic importance, have long been the despair of students. It was recognized that the species were numerous, and in fact over a hundred supposed species had been described, but no one could satisfactorily identify them. About twenty years ago L. Pandellé published a work in France, in which he separated the European species known to him by the characters of the sexual organs. This method proved brilliantly successful, and after a time was confirmed and adopted by the other European workers. It is now applied to the American flies, with the result of making the whole subject over, and replacing chaos by order. Dr. Aldrich has been able to recognize 145 species and varieties in the American fauna, and figures the genitalia of 138. Every reasonable effort has been made to identify the earlier