set up an Office of War Mobilization. All existing war agencies, including the Office of Scientific and Technical Mobilization, are to be brought under the coordination and guidance of the Office of War Mobilization.

Widespread individual information is the basis of an intelligent democracy. Scientists, academic and applied, would have a more direct interest than most other groups of our citizens in the proposed Office of Scientific and Technical Mobilization and a very great interest in the proposed Office of War Mobilization. They would do well to obtain copies of the bills and hearings to acquaint themselves with the terms and ideas embodied in them.

K. A. C. ELLIOTT,
Chairman, Philadelphia branch, American Association of Scientific Workers
HARRY GRUNDFEST,
National Secretary, American Association of Scientific Workers

CARIBOU AND THE MEAT SHORTAGE

MANY of our people seem concerned about the shortage in meats, which have been strictly rationed since March 29. As regards our home population it is not likely that this shortage will be serious; and it may even be an advantage, for at least the sedentary section now overeats and especially of proteins. If this were not sufficiently indicated by the tubby figure and especially by the protruding paunch of the average business man in middle life, it is confirmed by the unexpected, but considerably improved health of the British people since rationing was instituted there.

However, it is essential that our armed forces and our manual working population be supplied with an adequate protein diet, and it is pertinent to draw attention to a considerable supply of meat available in Alaska.

Since the beginning of the century there have been domesticated caribou (reindeer) herds in Alaska. Ten years ago estimated to number two hundred thousand to half a million, they have been now reduced to from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand. The wild caribou herds are estimated as between one and two millions of individuals, with other millions in Canada.

All those who have been privileged to eat caribou meat in the North will, I think, agree with me that it surpasses in its palatable qualities the best beef or the best venison. Caribou meat has something of the gamy flavor of venison, but in its juiciness it is more like beef. Already for a good many years caribou steaks have been obtainable in certain restaurants in this country, but the sale has never been large, partly because of the difficulty of overcoming inertia which favors the continued use of beef, mutton and pork, but mainly because of the opposition of the United States cattle and sheep men.

As the domesticated herds are largely in northwestern Alaska near the Bering Sea, it would be possible to ship the refrigerated meat by sea to our bases in the Southwest Pacific and to our own Pacific ports.

WM. H. HOBBS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Organic Chemistry. By G. ALBERT HILL and LOUISE KELLEY. viii + 919 pp. 6 × 9 in. Bound in dark blue cloth. Philadelphia: The Blakiston Company. 1943. $4.00.

THE authors of this new text are both leading professors of organic chemistry, one at Wesleyan University and the other at Goucher College, the former with considerable experience in the teaching of the subject to men, and the latter's teaching experience having been with women students. A collaboration of this kind should be mutually stimulating and helpful.

The result is a well-balanced presentation of the subject in its manifold and diversified aspects, theoretical and practical; including the purely descriptive side of preparation, properties and applications; the theoretical considerations underlying the behavior of certain molecules and the immensely important role of organic chemistry in the maintenance and progress of our present civilization and industries.

The volume contains 46 chapters, a glossary (mainly of medical terms), an explanation of symbols and Greek letters used and a good subject index. If it is intended to serve as a reference book, as well as a text, as its authors state in their preface, its lack of citations of the original literature and of pertinent bibliographies to supplement the necessarily restricted information given in so vast a field is regrettable.

The introductory chapter discusses the nature of atoms and of atomic linkages, including types and strength of bonds, bond angles, rotation about bonds, distances between atoms and anomalous valences; molecules, dipole moments, resonance, hydrogen bridges; the mechanism of organic reactions and the primary divisions of organic compounds into aliphatic, aromatic and heterocyclic.

The succeeding chapters present the various groups of organic compounds in the usual order, beginning with the hydrocarbons, then the alcohols and ethers, halogen derivatives, aldehydes and ketones, etc.