SCIENCE

VOL. 101 FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1945 No. 2634

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal, since 1900 the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science every Friday at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Editors: JOSEPHINE OWEN CATTELL and JAQUES CATTELL.

Policy Committee: MALCOLM H. SOULE, ROGER ADAMS and WALTER R. MILES.

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Communications relative to articles offered for publication should be addressed to Editors of Science, 1215 Fifth Avenue, New York 29, N. Y.

Communications relative to advertising should be addressed to THEO. CHRISTENSEN, Advertising Manager, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Communications relative to membership in the Association and to all matters of business of the Association should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Annual subscription, $6.00 Single copies, 15 cents

SHALL THEY SURVIVE?

By Dr. E. V. COWDRY

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ARE private colleges and universities in this country worth saving? If so, something effective must be done soon.

These institutions rely chiefly upon voluntary donations from private persons for their support. Some of these contributions, received in the early days, have been set aside as endowments from which they use the interest. But what amounts to a social revolution has taken place since the depression, with its epidemic of bank failures and many other misfortunes. Income on investments has fallen so that institutions now receive only about half as much from their endowments, and a new spirit is abroad throughout the land of letting Uncle Sam provide for everything with tax money. The idea of voluntarily giving has become almost a thing of the past, except to the American Red Cross and War Chests.

Yet in the past these private educational institutions have made great contributions to the wealth of the nation in the training of leaders in business, in the professions and in science and letters. In addition, they have helped to keep education free from regimentation and governmental control. This freedom in higher education is a priceless national asset. We have seen the consequences of its absence in Europe in the rising tide of totalitarian philosophy and practice. We take pride, also, in our great American public-supported institutions, which at present operate likewise in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom. The continuance of their greatness

well treated. Some thirty-odd pages are devoted to "morphological crystallography," chiefly in its computing aspects, and the rest of the science of crystallography is compressed into some four pages. This leaves much of the subject untouched. For example, a discussion of the plastic behavior of minerals, a topic now of great interest in several advancing research fronts, is missing. Certainly this section presents an ill-balanced account of the crystallographic aspects of mineralogy, and might better have been omitted than treated as it is.

The reviewer would hesitate to criticize the authors' choice of fonts for headings except for the fact that two more volumes of this work are yet to appear, and they could be made much more readable by a different selection of headings. Properly chosen, headings divide the work into coordinate and subordinate parts whose relative ranks are obvious. In this volume, however, headings of four different ranks are all printed in bold face type of approximately 10 point size. These are differentiated only by use of capitals and italics, all of which look much alike in heavy type. The reviewer suggests that in subsequent volumes of Dana's System, the authors follow the excellent style set in the 1932 edition of Dana-Ford's "Textbook," which is a condensation of the System.

These two criticisms are trivial compared with the solid virtues of the book. Nowhere else can the mineralogist find such a complete or up-to-date compilation and arrangement of mineral species data. The authors are to be congratulated on a splendid achievement and on performing a welcome service. Among other things, this volume will stand as a monument to one of the co-authors, the late Dr. Harry Berman, who lost his life in an aircraft accident while serving the Allied cause in his chosen field of mineralogy.

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FRESH-WATER SNAILS

The Molluscan Family Planorbidae. By FRANK COLLINS BAKER. (Collation, revision and additions by Harley Jones Van Cleave.) xxxvi + 530 (including 141 plates) + 1 portrait. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1945. $14.50.

To this taxonomic monograph, the late F. C. Baker has contributed the magnificently figured results of years of dissection and of microscopic study of radulae, in addition to photographs of the shells of most American forms and of examples of the foreign genera. On the basis of these new data, collated with those of other students, the Planorbidae of the world, after exclusion of the Bulinidae, are divided into 4 subfamilies and 34 genera: Planorbinae with 12, Segmentininae with 11, Helisomatinae with 7 and Planorbulinae with 4 genera. *Choanomphalus* (Choanomphalinae) and *Poecilospira* are considered "groups of uncertain affinities." All the divisions are defined carefully, with lists of "valid" forms and notes on distribution. Although opinions may vary in regard to the generic rank of some of these groups, their content and relationships are carefully worked out, so far as present knowledge permits. A chapter on general ecology discusses planorbids as intermediate hosts for trematodes.

A principal difficulty is that the wealth of new and compiled data, in this indispensable reference book, is indexed imperfectly, probably due to F. C. Baker's untimely death. Especially in such a thorough revision, with so many new or unfamiliar combinations, the lack of an alphabetic list of the specific and subspecific terms forces a perusal of all the book to find in what genera the forms, most of which were described in *Planorbis,* are now included. In addition, the nine new species and seventeen varieties described in part 13, and several of the names which appear in the plate explanations, are omitted from the systematic account. In this connection, the author probably meant to put *Menetus coloradoensis* (p. 230) in *Promenetus* (p. 178). Also, *Tropicorbis orbiculus dunkeri,* a "new name" (p. 494) is not included in the index to new forms but appears only in the plate index, and then under *T. obstructus.* Incidentally, the "index to text" lists seventeen "new varieties" (p. 525) but only fourteen "varieties, new" (p. 526). Misspellings are fairly infrequent, although they include fourteen species names in *Gyraulus* (pp. 66–71). But, despite these minor defaults of taxonomic desuétude, Van Cleave, with his interesting biography, careful bibliography and fine portrait, has shaped an admirable monument to an eager investigator and inspiring friend.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

BEALS, RALPH L., GEORGE W. BRAINERD and WATSON SMITH. *Archaeological Studies in Northeast Arizona.* Illustrated. Pp. x + 171. University of California Press. 1945.

HUNTINGTON, ELLSWORTH. *Mainsprings of Civilization.* Illustrated. Pp. xii + 660. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. $4.75. 1945.

RICHARDS, I. A., and CHRISTINE GIBSON. *Learning Basic English.* Pp. 116. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. $2.00. 1945.

SHREVE, R. NORRIS. *The Chemical Process Industries.* Illustrated. Pp. xiii + 957. McGraw-Hill Book Company. $6.00. 1945.

VERDOORN, FRANS. *Plants and Plant Science in Latin America.* Illustrated. Pp. xxxvii + 381. Chronica Botanica Co., Waltham, Mass. $6.00. 1945.

WARNER, W. LLOYD, and LEO SROLE. *Yankee City Series, Vol. III: The Social Systems of American Ethnic Groups.* Pp. xii + 318. Yale University Press. $4.00. 1945.