

country is esteemed as a plant with beneficial medicinal properties. What has proven to be the species *Ambrosia monophylla* (Walt.) Rydb. (*A. paniculata* Michx.) is cultivated in gardens by the country folk, to be used for poultices in the treatment of various pains and ills. It is actually sold in the market places of the capital city, Trujillo, for this purpose. Plants secured here were grown to the flowering stage and herbarium material prepared under the senior author's field number, 13876, and deposited in the U. S. National Herbarium at Washington, D. C.

During his stay of three years in Costa Rica, where he was engaged in rubber investigations at Turrialba, the junior author saw no ragweeds at any time. In the

Dominican Republic they are very uncommon and appear to be unimportant constituents of the flora.

Certain individuals who were highly allergic to ragweed pollens in the United States have found complete freedom in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, apparently because of the scarcity of members of the genus *Ambrosia* here. During a recent extensive collecting trip in the Dominican Republic through November, December, January, and the first week of February, 1945-46, the senior author encountered no wild *Ambrosia* species.

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Book Reviews

The California ground squirrel: a record of observations made on the Hastings Natural History Reservation. Jean M. Linsdale. Berkeley-Los Angeles: Univ. California Press, 1946. Pp. xi + 475. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

Students of behavior of wild animals, epidemiologists, administrative heads of rodent control programs in western North America, and students of natural history will find in this book a wealth of sound, basic information that they cannot afford to miss. Seldom has a single species of animal been studied so thoroughly and from so many angles of approach, particularly in its wild surroundings, as has the California ground squirrel. Little has escaped the critical eyes of Dr. Linsdale and his co-workers on the Hastings Reservation. Such inclusive topics as where and how this squirrel lives, communication, behaviorisms, food and shelter, populations, reproduction, diseases, parasites, and general morphology are all treated in more or less detail. There is some repetition in both text and half-tones (the latter of which are not up to the usual standards of the University of California Press), but this does not detract from the real value of the book as source material. The student of populations will have some difficulty in trying to find out how many squirrels there were in a unit area at any season of the year, but perhaps Dr. Linsdale does not consider this phase of population study important.

One of the more interesting conclusions is that the California ground squirrel prefers land that is being cultivated or pastured to those areas where the vegetation, particularly grass, is allowed to grow tall. Control of habitat, then, is the most effective method of controlling these ground squirrels. It is possible that this principle might be applied with success rather generally in the animal world. It might be inferred from the above that these rodents were much less numerous in the past than they are now—that human habitation has made for the squirrels a better place in which to live. Or could it be that the squirrels have changed their habits within historic times?

It is hoped that other studies of this nature will be forthcoming from the Hastings Reservation.

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A treasury of science. Harlow Shapley, Samuel Rapport, and Helen Wright. (Eds.) New York-London: Harper, 1946. Pp. xii + 772. \$3.95.

First published in 1943, *A treasury of science* continues to be a distinguished anthology of informative, thought-provoking, and entertaining hors d'oeuvres and entrees painstakingly selected by the editors from the vast storehouse of scientific writing. Deliberately chosen for the ubiquitous T. C. Mits, the celebrated man in the street invented by H. G. and L. R. Lieber, these readings will also repay the scientist for his time.

For those who are being introduced to the *Treasury* for the first time it may be useful to outline briefly the basic structure of this anthology.

After a delightful introduction by the principal editor, Harlow Shapley, there follow five additional sections: "Science and the Scientist," "The Physical World," "The World of Life," "The World of Man," and finally, "Atomic Fission." The sequence of sections is reminiscent of the Biblical dictum: "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." A modern paraphrase might read: "By fission was life begun; by fission it may end."

The section on "Atomic Fission" is new in this edition and includes selections from the writings of H. D. Smyth, E. O. Lawrence, J. Viner, and R. J. Oppenheimer.

Authors whose writings appear in earlier parts of the book include Oliver La Farge, Eddington, Jeans, Pavlov, Curie, Franklin, Stefansson, Huxley, Heiser, Kaempfert, Moulton, Einstein, and Geddes.

This volume is recommended for rereading as well as reading.

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