

Book Reviews

Manson's Tropical Diseases. A manual of the diseases of warm climates. Philip Manson-Bahr, Ed. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, ed. 14, 1954. xiv + 1144 pp. Illus. + plates. \$12.50.

The new 14th edition of Manson's classic volume on tropical medicine is an extensive revision of the last edition, published in 1950, although the pagination remains essentially unchanged. Like its predecessors, the primary orientation of this edition is to the interests and needs of the clinician, in spite of the fact that 200 pages are devoted to brief expositions of medical protozoology, helminthology, entomology, and relevant laboratory procedures. A short chapter is devoted to DDT, gammexane, and certain other insecticides.

The sections on treatment have been brought up to date to include recent information concerning the treatment of leprosy by the sulfones, the newer antimalarial drugs, and the fields of usefulness of the antibiotics. With regard to the antibiotics, I have the impression that greater caution and conservatism might have been advised and that more emphasis might have been placed on the occurrence of undesirable side effects. In this connection, there is not sufficient emphasis on the potential danger of administering hetrazan to cases of onchocerciasis complicated by ocular pathology.

There are certain omissions that might well have been included in a volume of this authority. There is no mention of the extension of yellow fever into Central America north of the Panama Canal. In the chapter on epidemic louse-borne typhus, it is surprising to find no reference to the possibility of transmitting the infection by dust containing louse feces, no description of the technique of DDT dusting a population for epidemic control, and no reference to DDT-resistant strains of lice. There would not be complete agreement on the fact that aerial photographs can accurately identify and delineate the areas in which scrub typhus may be a hazard. The intradermal test is included among the procedures for the diagnosis of brucellosis without the necessary qualification that a positive reaction merely indicates sensitization and not necessarily active infection. Similarly, in discussions of the complement fixation reaction and the agglutination reaction, the significance of a rising titer rather than an absolute titer is not mentioned. Likewise, in the chapter on schistosomiasis, there is no reference to the usefulness of superficial rectal mucosal biopsy for the diagnosis of especially schistosomiasis mansoni.

In his preface, the editor states that the addition of new material required the omission of certain sections included in previous editions. Prominent among these deletions are many paragraphs dealing with historical backgrounds. This seems particularly regrettable since Scott's classic two-volume *History*

of *Tropical Medicine* is no longer obtainable. This new edition contains an immense amount of valuable and useful information. The index is detailed and permits easy reference. No library on tropical medicine can be complete without this volume.

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The Nation Looks at Its Resources. Report of the Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future. Henry Jarrett, Ed. Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1954. xii + 418 pp. Paper, \$5.

On 2-4 December 1953, a Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future was held in Washington, D.C., under the sponsorship of Resources for the Future, a nonprofit corporation financed by the Ford Foundation. Attended by some 1600 persons, it constituted the first attempt since the Conference of Governors, called by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, to take stock of the national situation with respect to natural resources of all kinds and to explore the problems that their utilization and conservation will pose for the next 25 years and more. This substantial volume presents the record of this conference.

Prior to the conference, a steering committee for each of the eight sections into which it was divided selected the topics to be discussed, together with discussion leaders, and prepared a working paper that was sent to all prospective participants. This careful preliminary organization contributed greatly to the success of the conference. The printed record contains skillfully edited excerpts from the discussions and the chairmen's complete summaries of the major points developed. Included also are an interpretative introduction by R. G. Gustavson, president and executive director of Resources for the Future; key addresses by President Dwight W. Eisenhower and Lewis W. Douglas, chairman of the conference; a panel discussion of an over-all view of the situation prepared by the Brookings Institution; and addresses presenting different points of view on two broad current issues: "The public lands—who should control them?" and "How much should we depend on foreign resources?"

The conference was held primarily for the purpose of enlisting interest, exchanging views, identifying problems, considering possible solutions, and establishing a better understanding among diverse groups. It took no votes, passed no resolutions, and proposed no programs. It did not, in Douglas' words, "draft any pious and awesome encyclical," but it did make known facts and opinions that will help to guide the thinking and the actions of the people of the United States for years to come.

The Nation Looks at Its Resources is a timely book in an attractive format. It should be widely read, and it should be in the personal libraries of both laymen and professionals with a special interest in the subject.

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Monomeric Acrylic Esters. Edward H. Riddle, Reinhold, New York, 1954. vii + 221 pp. Illus. \$5.

The title of this book is misleading unless the word *monomeric* is taken to imply a considerable concern with polymerization. In seven chapters, the author considers the esters of acrylic and methacrylic acids, with emphasis on their industrial importance. Fully one-half of the book is composed of two chapters entitled "Polymerization" and "Copolymerization," whereas, surprisingly, there is no chapter on "Preparation"! This subject is dealt with briefly in the introduction by a mention of the industrial processes. There is, however, a good chapter on "Reactions."

The remainder of the book is devoted to analytic methods, storage and handling, physical properties, and a delightful introductory chapter. The story of the pioneer investigations by Otto Röhm in the preparation and application of polymerized acrylate and methacrylate esters is very readable and of general interest.

The subjects of the several chapters are skillfully introduced in such a way that a reader with only slight acquaintance is first brought up to the level of the presentation. The documentation is extensive and international. This book will be useful to the academic chemist to read once, but it will be of reference value only to the industrial chemist.

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Books Reviewed in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

June

- Science Awakening*, B. L. Van der Waerden (Noordhoff). Reviewed by I. B. Cohen.
Galen of Pergamon, George Sarton (Univ. of Kansas Press). Reviewed by D. Fleming.
Béla Schick and the World of Children, Antoni Gronowicz (Abelard-Schuman). Reviewed by W. W. Waddell, Jr.
American Thought, Morris R. Cohen (Free Press). Reviewed by P. B. Perlman.
Psychotherapy and Personality Change, Carl R. Rogers and Rosalind F. Dymond, Eds. (Univ. of Chicago Press). Reviewed by A. T. Dittman.
Pajarito Plateau and Its Ancient People, Edgar L. Hewett; rev. by Bertha P. Dutton (Univ. of New Mexico Press). Reviewed by E. K. Reed.
Thoreau: a Century of Criticism, Walter Harding, Ed. (Southern Methodist Univ. Press). Reviewed by B. C. Hendricks.

The Microphysical World, William Wilson (Philosophical Library). Reviewed by R. B. Fischer.

Sex and Morality, Abram Kardiner (Bobbs-Merrill). Reviewed by D. W. Hastings.

Biological Applications of Freezing and Drying, R. J. C. Harris, Ed. (Academic Press). Reviewed by W. L. Simpson.

Wildcat Strike, Alvin W. Gouldner (Antioch Press). Reviewed by E. Forsey.

Coro-Coro, Paul A. Zahl (Bobbs-Merrill). Reviewed by D. Amadon.

Introduction to Atomic and Nuclear Physics, Henry Semat (Rinehart). Reviewed by W. P. Gilbert.

Atomic Science, Bombs and Power, David Dietz (Dodd, Mead). Reviewed by P. Morrison.

Art in Science: A Portfolio of 32 Paintings, Drawings and Photographs from Scientific American (Simon and Schuster). Reviewed by D. Roller.

Margins of the Sea, Maurice Burton (Harper). Reviewed by J. E. Bardach.

Modern Learning Theory, W. K. Estes, S. Koch, K. MacCorquodale, P. E. Meehl, C. G. Mueller, W. N. Schoenfeld, and W. V. Verplanck (Appleton-Century-Crofts). Reviewed by J. M. Stephens.

The Study of Personality, compiled by Howard Brand (Wiley; Chapman & Hall). Reviewed by R. H. Knapp.

Sailing Aerodynamics, John Morwood (Philosophical Library). Reviewed by S. Ober.

Practical Clinical Biochemistry, Harold Varley (Interscience; Heinemann). Reviewed by M. A. Andersch.

Our American Weather, George H. T. Kimble (McGraw-Hill). Reviewed by C. W. Thornthwaite.

Elements of Statistical Mechanics, D. ter Haar (Rinehart). Reviewed by J. Rothstein.

Numbers: Fun and Facts, J. Newton Friend (Scribner) and *Mathematical Puzzles and Pastimes*, Aaron Bakst (Van Nostrand; Macmillan). Reviewed by P. Rabino-witz.

Elements of Algebra, Howard Levi (Chelsea). Reviewed by H. L. Lee.

Pygmies and Dream Giants, Kilton Stewart (Norton). Reviewed by C. E. Snow.

Flash! Harold E. Edgerton and James R. Killian, Jr. (Branford). Reviewed by E. C. Purdy.

American Men of Science, vol. I, *The Physical Sciences*, Jacques Cattell, Ed. (Science Press).

Freaks and Marvels of Insect Life, Harold Bastin (Wyn). Reviewed by C. D. Michener.

Flowers of the South, Wilhelmina F. Greene and Hugo L. Boomquist (Univ. of North Carolina Press).

New Books

Über Sterine, Gallensäuren und verwandte Naturstoffe. Zweite, stark veränderte und erweiterte Auflage. H. Lettré, R. Tschesche, and H. Fernholz. Enke, Stuttgart, Germany, 1954. 445 pp. DM. 85.

Précis d'écologie animale. F. S. Bodenheimer. Payot, Paris, 1955. 315 pp. F. 1200.

Aux confins de la vie. Perspectives sur la biologie des virus. P. Morand. Masson, Paris, 1955. 171 pp. F. 850.

The Birth and Development of the Geological Sciences. Frank Dawson Adams. Dover, New York, ed. 2., 1955. 506 pp. Paper, \$1.95.

Traunts from Life. The rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed children. Bruno Bettelheim. Free Press, Glencoe, Ill., 1955. 511 pp. \$6.