

actions that occur in the hydrogen bomb is quite incorrect. He makes no distinction between the process of fission (A-bomb) and that of fusion (H-bomb) and there is, in fact, no indication that he even realizes that there is a difference.

The other feature of Rowland's book that disturbs me is the price. Eve's book is handsomely bound, printed on 451 large pages of high-grade paper, with 17 plates of photographs, plus the frontispiece, and six line drawings. Rowland's book, which contains not more than one-fourth as many words, is printed on 160 small pages of ordinary paper, with three line drawings and no photographs, except for the frontispiece. Yet Eve's book sold in 1939, and still does sell, for \$5, whereas Rowland's book sells at \$4.75—surely a glaring example of the effects of inflation, if nothing more. But it is an interesting and reliably written book, provided that the reader overlooks those last 11 misleading pages.

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**Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products.** vol. 13. L. Zechmeister, Ed. Springer, Vienna, 1956. 624 pp. Illus. \$25.60.

The timely coverage of important developments in the field of natural products has been maintained in this 13th volume of the Zechmeister series. The various topics are discussed with competence and clarity by the foremost research workers in the field, and a multitude of formulas, conveying structures and reaction schemes, are presented.

The first chapter, by A. R. H. Cole, deals with the application of infrared spectroscopy to the elucidation of the structure of natural products, with primary emphasis on steroids and terpenoids. A short discussion is also devoted to the polyenes. The description of the various instruments and sampling techniques could well have been omitted, since they have been considered in various other books.

O. T. Schmidt discusses the progress of the chemistry of tannins since 1929 in the second chapter. The third chapter, by C. Tamm, deals with the progress of research in the field of cardioactive glycosides. The isolation and properties of the various glycosides are described. In the discussion of structure determinations, degradation reactions and structures of aglycones are emphasized.

The recognition of the importance of naturally occurring tropolones and tropenoids is well treated in the fourth chapter, by T. Nozoe. A description of structure determination of natural tropolones is given, and general methods

for the synthesis of various types of tropenoids are outlined.

Alkaloids that are related to anthranilic acids are reviewed by J. R. Price in the fifth chapter. Quinoline, acridine, furoquinoline, quinazoline, and quindoline alkaloids are included here.

The final two chapters, by A. Chatterjee, with S. C. Pakrashi and G. Werner, and by W. Grassman, with E. Wüch, deal, respectively, with recent developments in the chemistry and pharmacology of *Rauwolfia* alkaloids and with the syntheses of peptides.

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## New Books

*The Exploration of the Colorado River.* John Wesley Powell. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill., 1957 (abridged from ed. 1, 1875). 159 pp. \$3.75.

*The Chemistry of Plants.* Erston V. Miller. Reinhold, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1957. 181 pp. \$4.75.

*Physiology of the Nervous System.* E. Geoffrey Walsh. With chapters on somatic sensibility and the applied physiology of pain by John Marshall. Longmans, Green, New York, 1957. 579 pp. 50s.

*Précis de Biologie Humaine.* Les bases organiques du comportement et de la pensée. Propédeutique biologique des étudiants en psychologie et sciences humaines. Paul Chauchard. Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1957. 415 pp. Paper, F. 1400.

*Précis de Biologie Animale.* M. Aron and P. Grassé. Masson, Paris, 1957. 1421 pp. Cloth, 1 vol., F. 5900; paper, 2 vol., F. 5300.

*Physics.* Erich Hausmann and Edgar P. Slack. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., ed. 4, 1957. 732 pp. \$8.

*A Monograph of the Immature Stages of African Timber Beetles.* E. A. J. Duffy. British Museum (Natural History), London, 1957. 345 pp. £5.5s.

*Heat Transfer and Fluid Mechanics Institute.* 1957. Preprints of papers. Held at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, 19–21 June. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1957. 446 pp. \$8.50.

*Evolution of the Veterinary Art.* A narrative account to 1850. J. F. Smithcors. Veterinary Medicine Publishing Co., Kansas City, Mo., 1957. 417 pp.

*Seminar on the Decline of Materialism.* Sponsored by the Laymen's Movement for a Christian world, 10–11 Nov. 1956, Wainwright House, Milton Point, Rye, N.Y. Laymen's Movement for a Christian World, 347 Madison Ave., New York 17, 1957. 108 pp.

*Medical Department, United States Army, Surgery in World War II. Orthopedic Surgery in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations.* John B. Coates, Jr., Ed.-in-Chief. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1957 (order from Supt. of Documents, GPO, Washington 25). 388 pp. \$4.

## Miscellaneous Publications

(Inquiries concerning these publications should be addressed, not to Science, but to the publisher or agency sponsoring the publication.)

*West African Maize Research Unit, Second Annual Report.* 1954. West African Research Unit, Moor Plantation, Ibadan, Nigeria, 1957. 51 pp. 5s.

*Study Group on the Ecology of Intermediate Snail Hosts of Bilharziasis, Report.* WHO Tech. Rept. Series No. 120. 38 pp. \$0.30. *Study Group on Atherosclerosis and Ischaemic Heart Disease, Report.* WHO Tech. Rept. Series No. 117. 40 pp. \$0.30. *The Work of WHO, 1956.* Official records of the World Health Organization, No. 75. Annual report of the Director-General to the World Health Assembly and to the United Nations. 233 pp. \$2. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1957.

*Home Study Blue Book.* Homer Kemper, Ed. National Home Study Council, Washington, ed. 19, 1957. 32 pp.

*Energy Transfer in Polyacene Solid Solutions.* A guide to the literature to the end of 1956. NRC No. 4320. F. R. Lippsett. Radio and Electrical Engineering Div., National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, 1957. 64 pp. \$0.50.

*A Spectacular Waterfowl Migration through Central North America.* Biological Notes No. 36. Frank C. Bellrose. State Natural History Survey Div., Urbana, Ill., 1957. 23 pp.

*Individual Differences in Night-Vision Efficiency.* Medical Research Council Special Report Series No. 294. M. H. Pirenne, F. H. C. Marriott and E. F. O'Doherty (with a section on *The Frequency of Seeing at Low Illumination* by H. K. Hartline and P. R. McDonald). Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1957. 83 pp. 8s.

*Stress; Experimental Psychology; Child Psychiatry.* Psychiatric Research Reports, 7. Jacques S. Gottlieb, Chairman, Editorial Committee. American Psychiatric Assoc., Washington 6, 1957. 88 pp. \$2.

*The Nature and Transmission of the Genetic and Cultural Characteristics of Human Populations.* Papers presented at the 1956 annual conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund. Milbank Memorial Fund, New York, 1957. 143 pp. \$1.

*Abstracts of Research Financed by the Petroleum Research Fund, 1954–1956.* Administered by the American Chemical Society. Petroleum Research Fund, Washington, 1957 (order from Secretary, Petroleum Research Fund Advisory Board, 1155 16 St., NW, Washington 6). 34 pp.

*Proceedings of the Symposium on Rauwolfia.* Held under the auspices of the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on 17–19 October 1955 at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. Reprinted from *The Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, vol. XVIII, Nos. 4–7, 1956. Popular Press, Bombay, 1957. 148 pp.

*Symposium on Techniques in Polymer Science.* With an introduction by C. H. Bamford. Lectures, Monograph and Reports, 1956, No. 5. Royal Institute of Chemistry, London, 1957. 79 pp. \$1.15.