

within the framework of a healing profession.

In their concluding chapters the authors go beyond the confines of a case study to follow the implications of their findings wherever they lead, even though these lead, as they are aware, into controversy. It is here that data, insight, and the large social view produce a serendipitous yield of "tentative inferences" that must be taken into account as future guidelines both for research and for social policy.

The latter inferences range from public education in mental health matters, to evaluation of present methods of treatment and development of new methods, to professional training of therapists.

One can perhaps convey the significance and impact of this book in capsule form by suggesting that it stands in the tradition of Myrdal's classic work, *An American Dilemma*. Despite controversy, psychiatry and the community at large, well and sick, will stand in the authors' permanent debt.

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**Snakes in Fact and Fiction.** James A. Oliver. Macmillan, New York, 1958. xiii + 199 pp. Plates. \$4.95.

James Oliver wrote this book to answer "a majority of the questions most frequently asked about snakes," and this he has done in language free from technicalities. Although a great many subjects are dealt with briefly, emphasis is placed on a few old favorites such as giant snakes (two chapters), aggressive and dangerous snakes and their rating, and snake charmers and worshippers.

The account of the famous snake dance of the Hopi Indians of Arizona includes a good discussion of how the Hopis handle rattlesnakes with relative safety. Of special interest is impressive evidence that the anaconda grows to be at least 37 feet long. Here Oliver deals with a highly controversial subject, and his conclusion will raise the hackles of many a herpetologist. Incidentally, he transfers to the New World the honor of having the largest of all snakes, but he gives the Old World credit for the most deadly one.

In spite of the fact that snakes universally arouse strong and varied emotions, there are, in English, almost no accurate, readable, up-to-date books about them. I exclude certain excellent special-purpose works such as regional guides; these are not intended to be read straight through. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recommend a book not only designed to be read like a story but written well

enough to compete with good stories. The author is curator of reptiles of the New York Zoological Society and carries on with notable success the tradition started at the zoological park in the Bronx by the late Raymond L. Ditmars, renowned reptile specialist and educator.

Technical names are omitted from the text but entered in the ample index, after the common names. Lack of a bibliography is in part offset by the inclusion of names of herpetologists and other workers along with the accounts of their contributions. The 20 halftone pictures are produced on 12 plates and include two photographs of the Hopi snake dance.

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## New Books

*Principles of Biological Microtechnique.* A study of fixation and dyeing. John R. Baker. Methuen, London; Wiley, New York, 1958. 372 pp. \$7.50.

*Abbreviations Dictionary.* Abbreviations, contractions, signs and symbols defined. Including the Greek alphabet, international civil aircraft markings, numbered abbreviations, proofreader's marks, punctuation and diacritical marks, radio alphabet, Roman numerals, ship's bell time signals, signs and symbols. Ralph De Sola. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1958. 186 pp. \$4.

*Baillière's Atlas of Male Anatomy.* Revised by Katharine F. Armstrong. Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London, ed. 4, 1958 (order from Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore). 34 pp. \$3.25.

*Behind the Sputniks.* A survey of Soviet space science. F. J. Krieger. Public Affairs Press, Washington, D.C., 1958. 386 pp. \$6.

*Bibliography of Food.* A select international bibliography of nutrition, food and beverage technology and distribution, 1936-56. E. Alan Baker and D. J. Foskett. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1958. 343 pp.

*Bibliography on the Genetics of Drosophila.* pt. 3. Irwin H. Herskowitz, Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, 1958. 296 pp. Paper.

*Cholesterol.* Chemistry, biochemistry, and pathology. Robert P. Cook, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 554 pp. \$15.

*Coastal Sand Dunes of Oregon and Washington.* Memoir 72. William S. Cooper. Geological Soc. of America, New York, 1958. 169 pp.

*Comprehensive Inorganic Chemistry.* vol. 7. *The Elements and Compounds of Group IVA.* M. Cannon Sneed and Robert C. Brasted. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1958. 311 pp. \$7.50.

*Current Trends in Heterocyclic Chemistry.* Proceedings of a symposium held at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra, 2-4 September 1957, under the auspices of the Chemical Society. A. Albert, G. M. Badger, C. W. Shoppee, Eds.

Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1958. 179 pp. \$5.50.

*Danger in the Air.* Oliver Stewart. Philosophical Library, New York, 1958. 213 pp. \$6.

*D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson.* The scholar-naturalist, 1860-1958. Ruth D'Arcy Thompson. Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1958. 255 pp. \$4.

*Dispersion of Materials.* Rolt Hammond. Philosophical Library, New York, 1958. 239 pp. \$10.

*Electromagnetic Isotope Separators and Applications of Electromagnetically Enriched Isotopes.* R. H. V. M. Dawton, M. L. Smith, W. Walcher, J. Koch, Ed. North-Holland, Amsterdam; Interscience, New York, 1958. 322 pp. \$7.50.

*Elementary Number Theory.* Edmund Landau. Translated by Jacob E. Goodman. Chelsea, New York, 1958. 256 pp. \$4.95.

*Essays on Individuality.* Felix Moreley, Ed. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1958. 270 pp. \$5.

*Estimation of Thermodynamic Properties of Organic Compounds.* George J. Janz. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 220 pp. \$6.

*Fibre Microscopy.* Its technique and application. J. L. Stoves. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1958. 291 pp. \$7.50.

*General Cytochemical Methods.* vol. 1. J. F. Danielli, Ed. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 482 pp. \$12.80.

## Miscellaneous Publications

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

*Guideposts for the Gifted Children Themselves. Guideposts for Administrators. Guideposts for Teachers of Gifted Children. Guideposts for Parents of Gifted Children.* Ruth Strang. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia Univ., New York, 1958. 4 folders, \$0.60 per set.

*Petroleum Sourcebook, 1958.* A regional bibliography of petroleum information. Curtis Stevens, Ed. National Petroleum Bibliography, Box 3586, Amarillo, Tex., 1958. 179 pp. \$6.

*List of Scientific Papers, Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.* Chronicle of the United Nations, Document Service, Nos. 5-7. Chronicle of the United Nations, 234 West 26 St., New York 1, 1958. 24 pp. Free.

*Energy in Latin America.* Study prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Geneva, 1957 (order from Columbia Univ. Press, New York). 268 pp. \$2.50.

*Fundamentos del proyecto de creación del Observatorio Astronómico de la Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias.* Publ. No. 1, 14 pp.; *El Proyecto del Observatorio Astronómico Interamericano.* Publ. No. 3, Felix Cernuschi, 20 pp. Departamento de Astronomía, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay, 1958.