campaign in the Metropolitan New York area to provide the public with honest, authentic science information and to combat the kind of miseducation mentioned above. For three years Mr. Rázim worked indefatigably to establish a regular general science radio or television program in this area. For three years he was repeatedly turned away by a total of 17 radio and 7 television stations. But finally by grim determination he won. The result was the radio series *Science for the People,* which made its debut over WEVD on February 3, 1950.

At this writing, *Science for the People* still remains, to our knowledge, the only regular general science radio program directed and produced by anyone in the entire Metropolitan New York area, despite the fact that this area boasts some two dozen radio stations that duplicate many other kinds of broadcasts *ad nauseum.*

In its several years' existence, *Science for the People* has come to enjoy the respect and cooperation of many professional science associations as well as individual scientists and educators. As a consequence it has been able to present well over 100 distinguished scientists and educators in interviews and panel discussions. A list of topics discussed would include cancer, heart disease, polio, surgery, research to prevent blindness, research to prolong youth, care of the teeth, hypnotism, psychoanalysis, child psychology, rehabilitation of the disabled, social case work, narcotics, alcoholism, rainmaking, space travel, guided missiles, the solar system, microchemistry, fossils, ceramics, and many more.

Unlike more conventional science programs *Science for the People* has consistently exposed misleading advertisements, exaggerated science articles, pseudoscientific books, and the literature of quacks, cultists, and faddists. It has endeavored to provide accurate science news, often including reports of the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration missing in the popular press. Finally, it has attempted, as far as possible, to act as a clearing house for science information by answering questions submitted by listeners. In this respect it has often been able to help people with serious problems who knew not where else to turn.

WEVD has most generously donated the broadcast time. However, during the first 18 months Mr. Rázim financed all other operating expenses from his personal funds. Mr. Rázim also conducted all literature searches, gathered and checked news reports, arranged interviews, prepared scripts, conducted campaigns to publicize the series, answered all correspondence, and even did all the required typing. But in the summer of 1951, Mr. Rázim, faced with a seige of ill health, was forced to seek outside help. To prevent the demise of *Science for the People,* he persuaded a small nucleus of enthusiastic colleagues to join him in establishing a non-profit organization, *Science for the People Foundation.*

This foundation, with membership open to public-spirited scientists, educators, and laymen, has several basic objectives. It is seeking to expand the services of *Science for the People* and eventually to make transcriptions available to other stations throughout the country. It plans to renew attempts to initiate a second program on one of the major networks—hopefully, a television series. It would like to provide on the spot interviews, coverage of all major science conventions, and an adequate question bureau service to listeners. Finally, if funds permit, it hopes to make free literature available to the public and to publish an official organ.

Obviously the success or failure of this organization will depend in part upon the extent to which it can arouse the scientifically trained to contribute (time, money, or both) toward achieving these objectives. And so, perhaps the ultimate history of *Science for the People Foundation* will be of interest to the social scientist as a social experiment.

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Book Reviews

Handbuch der Pflanzenkrankheiten (Sorauer) Bd. VI, 1. Lief.: ***Pflanzenschutz.*** 2nd ed. O. Appel *et al.,* Eds. Berlin-Hamburg: Paul Parey, 1952. 448 pp. DM 78.

This book, the first part of volume VI of the *Handbuch,* is devoted to a presentation of the economic aspects and the problems of plant protection. The companion volume, dealing with control of plant diseases and insect injuries, will appear later. Twelve years have passed since the last revision of this well-known publication. This volume has a table of contents and an extensive index to help the reader in finding any subject of interest. The statements made are conveniently documented by citations to the related literature in footnotes that frequently occupy more space than the text.

The first section, prepared with the cooperation of H. Morstatt, of Berlin-Dahlem, deals with the economic importance of plant protection, and discusses such topics as the kind and extent of damage caused by diseases and insects, the cost of plant-protective measures, results obtained, insurance against crop damage, and the government and plant protection.

The second section, by H. Braun of Bonn, deals

with the problems of plant protection and the measures to be taken, such as the prevention of the appearance of plant diseases and cultural measures, including rotation, selection of seed, time and depth of planting, and spacing of plants. Dr. Braun discusses at length the many problems of soil sterilization, including its applicability and limitations, mechanical measures, and sterilization by means of electricity, heat, and chemicals. All chemicals known to possess soil-sterilizing properties are assessed, brief directions for their use are given, and the organisms controlled are listed.

A third section, by G. Gassner of Braunschweig, is devoted to the treatment of seeds and propagative plant parts. He discusses methods and materials used and their applicability to various kinds of seeds, as well as to tubers, bulbs, and cuttings.

In the final section Dr. Braun deals with the problems concerned with quarantines such as the economic significance of the spread of plant diseases and pests, the purpose of quarantine, the economic and biological bases of quarantines, and the measures that need to be taken to carry them out.

The book is a valuable addition to the literature relating to plant protection.

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Cancer in Man. Sigismund Peller. New York: International Univs. Press, 1952. 556 pp. Illus. $12.00.

Cancer in Man is one of the most provocative and could become one of the most controversial books in the field of oncology. Primarily it is neither a text nor a reference book, but the review of a long career in cancer epidemiology.

The book is purposefully organized and intensely written. It is well indexed and includes an extensive bibliography. Three sections in turn (1) deal with cancer research, (2) lay the foundation for the author's epidemiological solution to the problem of cancer, and (3) present the solution. Part 1 on "Pathology of Human Cancer" includes a well-organized and generally satisfactory review of cellular concepts and histogenesis and the philosophy underlying these concepts. New and old observations have been woven together into a readable and useful summary, which is well annotated to serve as a source book for the advanced student and research worker. Although the author has obviously followed experimental literature carefully, his interpretations of the "outstanding results of experimentation" and "evaluation of the experimental trend" are founded on a philosophy of clinical empiricism and appear rather superficial to the experimentalist. This is reflected in his ultimate rejection of modern cellular and biochemical hypotheses in favor of a modification of the century-old but now almost meaningless irritation theory of Virchow. Although the research worker may rebel at the author's conclusions, he will find in them a powerful stimulus to the much needed self evaluation of his own experimental approach to the cancer problem.

In Part 2, "Epidemiology of Cancer," is a lengthy review designed to support the author's thesis that cancer is an immunizing disease, one kind of which tends to protect the individual against development of a second cancer. Here one finds a curious mixture of speculation, selected statistical data, and the casual rejection of conflicting views. Among the latter, the author discards all concepts of organ specific cancer susceptibility on a hereditary basis as "inconclusive." He is highly critical of the 1937–39 surveys carried out by the Public Health Service in 10 major cities in the U.S., but unfortunately does not refer to the improved surveys in these same cities in 1948–49, although these appeared beginning in 1950—an earlier date than many other papers that he reviewed. The studies by Shields Warren and his associates on the occurrence of multiple cancer are also discounted as inadequately controlled and hence inconclusive.

Part 3 presents Dr. Peller's immediate solution to the cancer problem. Based on acceptance of his foregoing analysis, he contends that a cancer control program can be based on deliberate efforts to encourage the development of skin cancer, which is curable in most cases, and that such cured cancer patients will then usually be immune to development of an internal, highly fatal type of cancer. Such a program would allegedly reduce cancer mortality by approximately 90%.

As a whole, *Cancer in Man* will appeal to few; in parts it will be unacceptable to most people who have directed their efforts toward the solution of this problem. The book is stimulating, but not convincing. Peller's theses of a newer and better cancer control and on the reorganization of research efforts will hardly find better acceptance now than when previously offered.

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Scientific Book Register

The Comets and Their Origin. R. A. Lyttleton. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1953. 173 pp. Illus. + plates. $5.00.

America's Ancient Civilizations. A Hyatt Verrill and Ruth Verrill. New York: Putnam, 1953. 334 pp. Illus. + plates. $5.00.

Proceedings of the International Congress on Analytical Chemistry, Oxford, England, September 4–9, 1952. Under the patronage of The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Cambridge, Eng.: W. Heffer, 1953. 493 pp. Illus. + plates. 42s.

Cacti and Succulents. G. Gilbert Green. New York–London: Pitman, 1953. 238 pp. Illus. + plates. $7.00.

The Common Sense of Science. J. Bronowski. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1953. 154 pp. $2.00.

Differential and Integral Calculus. Philip Franklin. New York–London: McGraw-Hill, 1953. 641 pp. Illus. $6.00.

The Psychiatrist and the Law. Winfred Overholser. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1953. 147 pp. $3.50.