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BOOKS

THE WATER SEEKERS

by Remi A. Nadeau
 Doubleday, N.Y., \$3.00

*Reviewed by Franklin Thomas
 Professor of Civil Engineering*

FORTUNATELY THERE ARE delibera-
 tive agencies and courts which have
 jurisdiction over rights to water in
 the arid West. Controversies over
 where limited quantities of water
 shall be used and by whom become
 very acute.

Mr. Remi A. Nadeau, fifth genera-
 tion descendant of an early Cali-
 fornian, graduate of Stanford, and
 a resident of Santa Monica, has pro-
 duced a fascinating narrative of
 crucial events and plans which have
 largely determined the destiny of
 important areas in the Southwest.
 The author recounts the activities of
 individuals and happenings related
 to the origin and consummation of
 the Owens River Aqueduct and the
 various projects using Colorado
 River water to exemplify the tensions
 and conflicting interests which arise.

The book is an important and
 factual record based upon very ex-
 tensive research covering an exten-
 sive bibliography which the author
 lists as an additional benefit for his
 readers.

Anyone who spends time interest-
 ingly in a perusal of this book will
 have increased appreciation for the
 water which flows freely for his
 comfort and convenience.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

by Edward A. Maziarz, C.P.P.S.,
 M.S., Ph.D.
 Philosophical Library, N.Y., \$6.00

*Reviewed by E. T. Bell
 Professor of Mathematics*

FOR ABOUT 2400 YEARS philoso-
 phers from Pythagoras to Kant tried
 to tell mathematicians what mathe-
 matics is really about. Then, in
 1854, George Boole published his
Laws of Thought, the effective be-
 ginning of symbolic logic. By 1895,
 with the work of the Italian School
 of symbolic logic, it at last became
 possible to state the basic problems
 of the so-called philosophy of mathe-
 matics in a clear and unambiguous
 form. In the succeeding half cen-
 tury the English, German, and Amer-
 ican schools of symbolic logic
 created subtle and penetrating tech-
 niques for investigating the founda-

tions of mathematics. The outcome
 was a vast literature that no philoso-
 pher could understand.

In an endeavor to bring the mathe-
 maticians and the philosophers with-
 in shouting distance of one another,
 Dr. Maziarz proposes in Part II of
 his book a return to pure metaphys-
 ics as practiced in the Middle Ages.
 Part I is a summary, with hundreds
 of references and excerpts wrenched
 from their contexts, of the efforts of
 mathematicians to understand their
 subject. To the reviewer it seems
 that the summary is slanted toward
 the author's scholastic bias evident
 in Part II. The mathematician who
 hopes for illumination from this
 part will have to understand numer-
 ous passages such as the following
 on page 195: "Quantity is analogously
 divided by metaphysicians into
 transcendental and predicamental.
 They point out that transcendental
 quantity, a field of metaphysical in-
 quiry, is used to signify the amount
 of perfection or entiative being
 which a thing possesses. (The author
 here refers to Saint Thomas Aquinas,
In V Metaphysicorum, Lect. 15,
 nn. 954-976.) The being of a giraffe,
 for example, is intrinsically greater
 than the being of a stone. Transcen-
 dental quantity, as based on the sub-
 stantial or accidental perfection of a
 being—on its amount or plenitude
 of perfection—is spoken of as vir-
 tual quantity, while that based on a
 consideration of a plurality of such
 things is spoken of as transcendental
 quantity or transcendental number."

Not having a copy of the *Meta-
 physicom* at hand, the reviewer
 is predicamentally unable at the
 moment to decide whether pi
 (3.1415926...) is a transcendental
 number or a giraffe.

INTERNAL BALLISTICS OF SOLID-FUEL ROCKETS

by R. N. Wimpres
 McGraw-Hill, N.Y., \$4.50

FIRST OF A TWO-VOLUME series on
 rockets from the California Institute
 of Technology, this book carries the
 subtitle: Military Rockets Using
 Dry-Processed Double-Base Propel-
 lant As Fuel. It has been compiled
 by R. N. Wimpres, now associated
 with Industrial Engineers, Inc., and
 a former member of the Propellants
 Group of the rocket development
 organization working under Contract

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BOOKS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

OEMsr-418 between the California Institute and the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

The material presented here is based almost entirely upon the activities of the group who worked with rockets at Caltech during 1941-45, and Dr. Bruce H. Sage, Professor of Chemical Engineering at the Institute, and one of the supervisors of the Propellants Group, contributes an introduction to the volume which points up the achievements of some of the Institute personnel who worked on the project.

The information in this book has been available up to now only in unpublished reports.

VIRUSES 1950

Edited by M. Delbruck

Division of Biology, California Institute of Technology, \$2.50

VIRUSES 1950 consists of the proceedings of the conference held at the Institute last spring (E & S, April '50), which brought together for the first time scientists working

on the three great groups of viruses—those which attack animals, plants and bacteria. The book has been edited by Dr. Max Delbruck, Professor of Biology at the Institute, who warns readers in a foreword not to expect to find a comprehensive coverage of all virus problems here. He does not add, however, that this is as close to a comprehensive coverage of virus problems as any interested reader will yet find—and as such, invaluable.

SECRET

by Michael Amrine

Houghton Mifflin, Boston, \$3.00

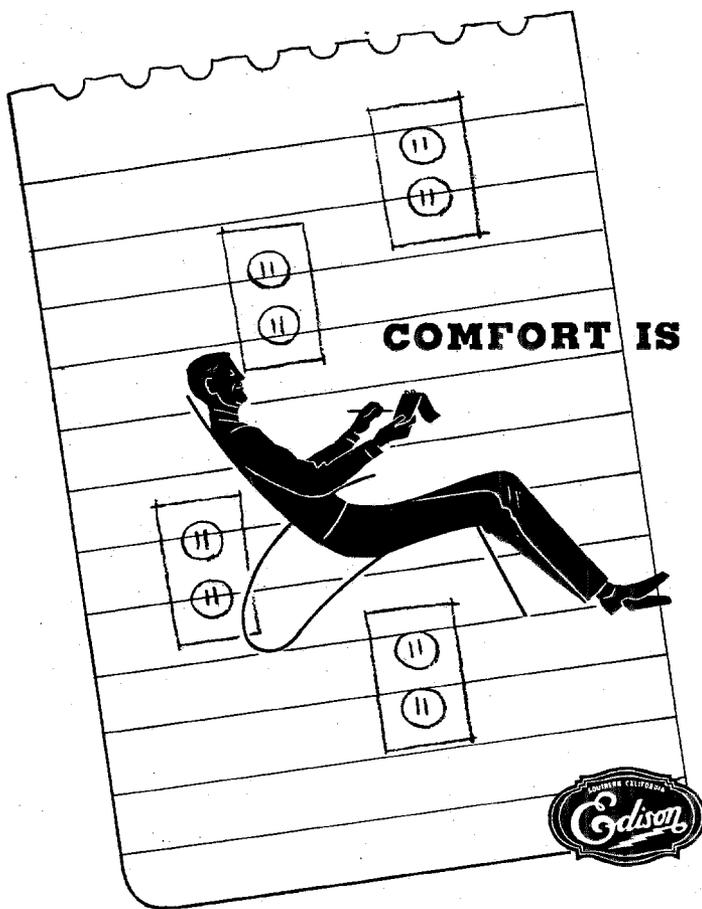
*Reviewed by E. T. Bell
Professor of Mathematics*

MANY READERS OF THIS MAGAZINE will be personally familiar with one phase or another of the situation Amrine describes in his novel. The hero, Halverson, a specialist in the applications of radiation to cancer, early got sucked into the atomic bomb project. When the war ended he returned to his own research, only to become embroiled in the futile attempt to get atomic energy under civilian control.

Amrine knows what he is talking about here, as he was publications director of the Federation of American Scientists. If he himself did not provide a Roman holiday for the Senate committee, he evidently knew somebody who did. Likewise for Halverson's tangles with the military and the F.B.I. Finally, under various pressures, moral and otherwise, Halverson is sucked in again, this time for army research on a Super-killer. There the story leaves him, with both feet in the quicksands from which there is no escape.

It is clear that Amrine does not particularly care for colonels, generals, senators, and F.B.I. agents in their relations with science. This goes for some others, too. Even our benign eldest statesman is dismissed as one of "the grand and archaic Baruchs". But it was rather unkind to include Senator Rankin in the same sentence.

Readers looking for salvation will ask what is to be done about the situation if we don't like it. What does a pint-sized wrestler do when three hundred pounds of solid meat is sitting on his head?



Buying a home is serious business for every family.

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