

# BOOKS

## SCIENCE MARCHES ON

Edited by James Stokley

Ives Washburn, New York \$3.75

**S**INCE 1936 the General Electric Company has conducted a popular weekly radio program known as the General Electric Science Forum, in which distinguished scientists give brief talks concerning their own work, or work being done in their fields of interest.

During this time the program has presented some 700 talks, and one book has already been devoted to selections from these (*Excursions in Science*, edited by Neil B. Reynolds and Ellis L. Manning, and published by McGraw-Hill in 1939). The present book contains 50 of the 500-odd talks which have been given since 1939. Its editor, Dr. James Stokely, is a member of the General Electric Company's News Bureau.

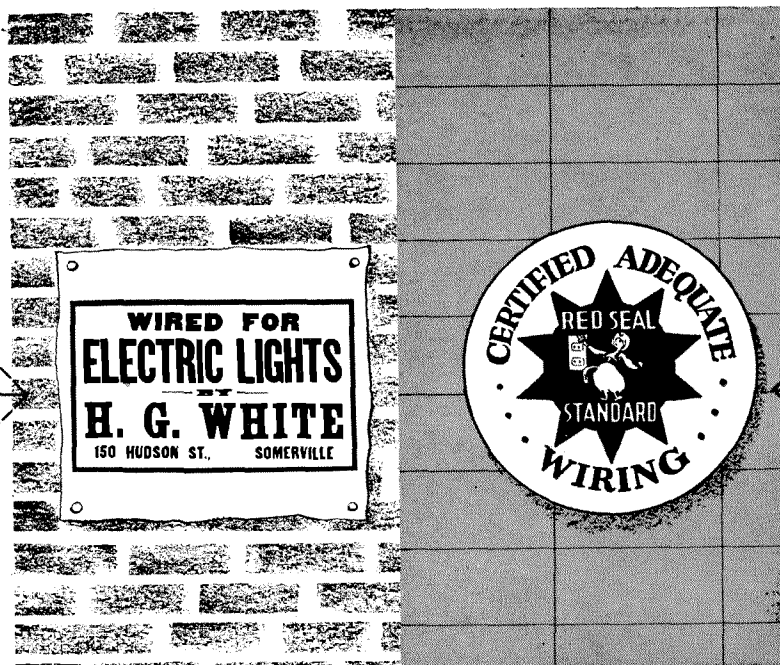
Though Dr. Stokely has neatly packaged his 50 selections into six compartments, with labels like "What Science Can Do", "The Earth and Its Surroundings", "The Living World", and "Man's Life and Health", the subjects—and speakers—range over the whole field of science.

John Quincy Stewart, Associate Professor of Astronomical Physics at Princeton, discusses Social Physics; John W. Campbell, Jr., editor of *Astounding Science Fiction*, writes on The Value of Science Fiction; Edward S. C. Smith, Professor of Geology at Union College, discusses Why Do Ice Ages Occur?; Maurice Ewing, Professor of Geology at Columbia University, tells about Photographing the Ocean Bottom; Hans Bethe, Professor of Physics at Columbia, covers The Structure of Atomic Nuclei; Robert E. Marshak, Professor of Physics at the University of Rochester discusses The Ener-

gy of the Sun; James A. Reyniers, head of the Laboratories of Bacteriology at Notre Dame, writes on Germ-Free Animals; Clarence A. Mills, director of the Laboratories for Experimental Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, writes on Climate and Man; Glenn Seaborg, Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, discusses The New Elements.

This is a random sampling of the contents of the book. Most of the talks have been revised and brought up to date by the men who originally delivered them on the air. None of them is more than about 2,000 words long, and all of them are remarkably clear—and consistently interesting. They make a fine introduction for the layman to a good many unfamiliar branches of science. And they furnish solid proof that the scientist *can* explain his work to the layman, in layman's language, when he wants to.

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