

Books

ROWELL, E. A., AND ROWELL, R. *On the Trail of Marihuana*. Pacific Press Pub. Association, Mountain View, California, 1939. 96 pp. Paper cover 25c. Cloth, School ed. 75c.

This inexpensive paper bound account of the history and harm done by Marihuana, "The Weed of Madness," is written in popular style by two men who have spent years investigating and lecturing on Marihuana and other narcotic drugs throughout the United States.

The general make-up of the book is attractive, and it is illustrated with good views of "Marijuana" (*Cannabis sativa*), the weed which produces the drug known as Marihuana, growing under varied conditions. Close-ups are shown of the leaves and fruits of the plant, and of various forms in which the drug may be sold.

The subject matter traces the history of the use of the drug, its effects on various body organs, ways in which it is sold illegally, how to recognize the plants which produce it, and the social problems involved for the present and future. All phases of these subjects are well covered. Harmful effects of Marihuana cigarettes on high school boys and girls are brought to the reader's attention by vivid stories taken from real life.

The appendix contains specific identification tests for Marihuana, and a copy of the Federal Marihuana Tax Act of 1937.

This little book impresses me as being extremely valuable as reference reading for the biology classroom or school library, and might well be recommended to school organizations of pupils and parents for distribution among their numbers, particularly in localities where Marihuana has become a menace.

B. BERNARR VANCE

HEISS, ELWOOD D., OBOURN, ELLSWORTH S., AND MANZER, J. GORDON. *Our World of Living Things*. Webster Publishing Co., St. Louis, 1936. 274 pp. \$1.08. (Workbook and Unit Tests available.)

The authors present an 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by 11 inch hardcovered text with a two column layout. There are cuts and halftones. Most legends to the cuts are titles. A stimulating arrangement of problems and questions in a dark lined box is maintained throughout. The book includes index, end chapter references, summary outlines of principles, suggested pupil activities and self-mastery tests.

Unadorned language is used. There is a problem form approach. The phraseology is of a simple, straightforward, non-motivating style. The text has a unit-topic sequence of varying length. The topic "All Living Things Require Food" is completed in 31 pages while the topic of heredity has eight pages devoted to its development; five pages elaborate breeding, eugenics, euthenics; classification is treated in 24 pages; "Living Things and Their Environment Are Constantly Changing" has a seven page elaboration. The following fundamental topics are treated: classification, food, diet, digestion, circulation, excretion, ecology, behavior, reproduction, heredity, breeding, eugenics, bacteria and man, conservation, and evolution.

ALAN A. NATHANS

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