

The History of Science; Secret History; Leonardo and the Birth of Modern Science; Evariste Galois; Ernest Renan; Herbert Spencer; East and west in the History of Science; An Institute for the History of Science and Civilization; Casting Bread upon the Face of the Waters.

There is an index.

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DUNCAN, WINIFRED. *Webs in the Wind*.
Ronald Press, New York. xv + 387 pp.
illus. 1949. \$4.50.

"A spider's face is pretty awful until you get fond of it," says Winifred Duncan, who is evidently quite fond of awful faces. "It has long been my intention," she says, "to select some little creature concerning which I knew nothing, make a careful study of its life, and write a book about it which would take the reader along with me, step by step, on a voyage of discovery. That's where the magic is, the shock of delight and incredulity, the fun of finding things out, of making mistakes, of blundering on fascinating secrets." Abundantly illustrated with sketches, the journal-narrative traces two years' work on web-weavers. It is occasionally anthropomorphic, but the observations are provocative for both the casual hobbyist and serious researcher in animal behavior.

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WILLIAMS, R. O. *School Gardening in the Tropics*. 3rd ed. Longmans, Green and Company, London. 143 pp. 1949. 3/-.

Mr. Williams, formerly Director of Agriculture in Zanzibar, compiled this book from a revision of material given in lectures for teachers in Trinidad in 1921. The book is small and paper-bound, illustrated with small drawings, and contains an appendix with a list of the common and scientific names of plants useful in tropical school gardens. Some of the topics discussed include: The object of a school garden, experimentation in plant production, how to relate gardening to other school work, as well as practical sug-

gestions about cultivation and fertilization of the soil, selection of plants, planning the garden, care of plants, plant pests and diseases with suggestions for eradication, and hints about how to deal with land of different physiographic natures.

The tropical nature of the material necessarily limits its specific application in the United States, but the book is of interest as an example of what may be accomplished with garden project work, especially in the more rural communities. It may also serve as an impetus for those who might be qualified to assemble a similar compilation for teachers of temperate climates.

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RENT-FREE VACATIONS

An opportunity to enjoy a rent-free vacation in any region of the United States is currently being offered to members of the teaching profession by the Teachers Residence Exchange. School and college instructors who register with the exchange are assisted in locating similarly-situated colleagues who wish to exchange homes for the summer or during a sabbatical leave. Officials of this unique service report keen interest among educators all over the country. California, New York, the southwest, and New England are the sections most popular with teachers seeking rent-free vacations, according to Mrs. Mildred Lewis, director of the residence exchange.

"Teachers wish to live in neighborly friendliness and are glad to really get to know the people and the way of life of the region they choose for their vacation," stated Mrs. Lewis. "Exchanges are made on the basis of complete information supplied by registrants," she added, "so that each teacher family finds a home very much like their own waiting to welcome them." Teachers interested in further information about the rent-free vacation plan should write to the *Teachers Residence Exchange*, 100 West 42nd Street, New York 18.