

reversal of its ancestral mode of defence was useful in insuring its survival.

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TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

AN INTRODUCTION TO EARTH HISTORY. By Harvey Woodburn Shimer, Boston: Ginn and Company. 1925. \$3.00.

There is such a vast lot of facts that a student is usually supposed to get in a first course in geology that the net result all too frequently is a bad case of mental indigestion, leaving, in after years, a very confused notion of the facts and none whatever of the underlying meanings of them. Dr. Shimer judiciously selects out the more important of the facts to make a somewhat smaller dishful, and what is much more profitable, so concocts and arranges them that they are not only tastier on the table but should not prove difficult even to the most delicate of sophomore digestions. They thus have a good chance of being properly assimilated, and of becoming a real and lasting part of the mental tissues. Textbooks are getting better; and this is one is a good sample of the new order.

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TEACHING SCIENCE IN THE SCHOOLS, By Elliot Rowland Downing. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1925. 185pp., \$2.00.

THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE AND THE SCIENCE TEACHER, By Herbert Brownell and Frank B. Wade. The Century Co., New York, 1925. 322 pp., \$2.00.

Despite the anti-scientific legislation which has handicapped the schools in some parts of the country, science in general probably has a more important place in the school curricula than ever before. In Prof. Downing's book he discusses the history of science teaching and its bearing on present day problems of the science teacher, the aims of science teaching and the way the problems are met in other countries. The discussion of the entire social and economic background of the subject should help many a teacher to a better understanding of his mission in life.

The book by Messrs. Brownell and Wade is more in the nature of a manual for the science teacher - a fact indicated by some of the chapter headings, as "Laboratory Arrangement and Equipment", "Class Management", "Use of Projects", etc., although in the second part, such subjects as "The Science Teacher and the Community" are discussed. In many ways it supplements Prof. Downing's book and the two should be in the library of every science teacher.

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Americans ate more ice cream in 1925 than in any previous year.

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