

First Glances at New Books

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ECONOMICS—Chaplin Tyler—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3.50). An attempt to help advanced chemical engineering students bridge the abrupt gap separating classroom instruction from practice in the industrial plant.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

PROCRUSTES or The Future of English Education—M. Alderton Pink—*Dutton* (\$1). This volume asks pertinent questions about the efficacy and value of our present educational system.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CHEMISTRY — L. Jean Bogert — *Saunders* (\$2.75). A text book on chemistry designed to meet the needs of nurses and some economics students.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

THE SCIENCES, A Reading Book for Children—Edward S. Holden—*Ginn* (\$.84). Designed to help the child to understand the material world about him. May it save his long suffering parents from concocting answers to a few less questions.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

A HISTORY OF MEDICINE—C. G. Cumston—*Knopf* (\$5). An outline of the development of medicine from pre-Hippocratic times to the present, illustrated with cuts of many rare portraits of early medical leaders.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

FERTILIZERS, Their Sources, Manufacture, and Uses—Herbert Cave—*Pitman* (\$1). A brief discussion, in popular language, of the merits of various fertilizers, grouped according to their chemical classes.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

STUDIES OF CHOLERA IN JAPAN—Rokuro Takano, Itsuya Ohtsubo and Zenjuro Inouye—*Health Organization of the League of Nations*. The most important results of investigations on Asiatic cholera conducted in Japan summarized in English for the benefit of Western research workers.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ANALYSIS AND MEASUREMENT OF HUMAN PERSONALITY UP TO 1926—Grace E. Manson—*National Research Council* (\$1). A useful and well organized bibliography of 1,364 books and articles from a wide range of sources.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

THE ORIGIN OF BIRDS—Gerhard Heilman — *Appleton* (\$7.50). The reptilian ancestry of birds is proved several times both with logic and the copious illustrations that decorate this handsome volume. A valuable addition to the ornithologist's library.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN CHEMISTRY (Vol. 1)—Edited by William J. Hale—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$2.50). Leading chemists tell of the progress of chemistry in the United States during the past year.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

HYDROGEN ION CONCENTRATION, Vol. 1. The Theoretical Principles—Lionor Michaelis, translated by William A. Perlzweig of Johns Hopkins—*Williams and Wilkins* (\$5). The last word on a subject of great importance to chemists and biologists.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

MANUAL OF METEOROLOGY, Vol. 1—Sir Napier Shaw — *Cambridge* (30s.). One of the world's most eminent meteorologists tells of the history of weather science in a complete and interesting manner.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

OXFORD MEETING—*British Association for the Advancement of Science* (25s.). This is in effect a yearbook of British science, containing the presidential addresses, abstracts of papers, and extensive references to the program of the meeting of last summer.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

DIMINISHING RETURNS IN AGRICULTURE—F. Lester Patton—*Columbia University* (\$1.50). A cool and factual examination of a part of the economic field at present more characterized by heat than by light.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY, Pioneer Century, 1769-1865 — Max Meisel — *Premier* (Vol. I. \$5; Vol. II, \$7.50). These two volumes give first an extensive bibliography of bibliographies, and then an annotated listing of all early journals, proceedings and other publications in which the papers of the Homeric age of American natural history appeared.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

GAS AND GASES—R. M. Caven—*Holt* (\$1). An elementary account of the chemical, physical and biological aspects of gases.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

Scientific Poetry Prizes

The second weekly scientific poetry prize has been awarded to Richard Ashman of New Orleans. His poem, telling of the Dodo's Dolorous Doom, is given in this column. It will be seen that Mr. Ashman has made a striking combination of paleontology, eugenics and homiletics: an accomplishment hardly possible to science written in prose. Similar syntheses bringing together remote corners of the wide field of knowledge and tempered with poetry should be entered in the Science Service Scientific Poetry Contest.

Conditions: Poems, verses, rimes, jingles or what-have-you must be original and unpublished. They must express accurately some scientific fact or situation. Address: Poetry Editor, Science Service, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. Keep a copy, as unavailable contributions can not be returned.

Prizes: One poem will be published each week. A prize of \$5.00 will be paid for each poem published.

BIOLOGY

The Dodo's Dolorous Doom

This week's prize winning poem in the Science Service scientific poetry contest.

On the Island of Mauritius
In the southern Indian Sea,
Lived a Bird, so unsuspecting,
Unprogressive, unambitious,
That his fate was unpropitious—
Tragical in high degree.

Dodo was this Bird's cognomen,
Insular his habitat;
Yet he couldn't flee his foeman,
Couldn't swim to dodge the bowman,
Dead is he as any Roman:
You are not surprised at that.

Let me say in this connection,
Such ineptness cannot thrive!
Dodo had no predilection
For Darwinian selection;
This accounts for his defection,
For his failure to survive.

Let your tears augment the ocean,
Let their salt increase the brine;
Give full vent to your emotion,
If you only get the notion
That your duty is devotion
To survival of your line.
—Richard Ashman.

Science News-Letter, March 12, 1927

Government tests of auto tires show that, within the customary limits of air pressure used in tires, the higher the pressure the better the tire will stand up.