First Glances at New Books

BEING WELL-BORN — Michael F. Guyer—*Bobbs-Merrill* ($5). A new and completely revised edition of professor Guyer's classic, embodying the new data brought forth by the decade of research that has elapsed since it was first published. In an age when obedience to the ancient command, "Know thyself," is more imperative than ever before, no person who undertakes to live intelligently can afford to neglect this well-digested source of information about the most intimate and important of all self-knowledge.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

TEXTILE FABRICS — George H. Johnson—*Harper and Bros.* ($5). Somplete information, compactly presented covering both standard and little known fabrics. Especially valuable are the discussions of defects and manufacturers' falcifications, and the fate these meet under the strain of wear and laundering. The book is well illustrated with photomicrographs of all imaginable kinds of fabrics and raw materials.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE METHODS OF REASONING — Daniel Sommer Robinson—*Appleton* ($2). An approach to logical theory through a study of thinking in the concrete. Nine logical methods by which one may reason from known facts to sound conclusions illustrated by examples drawn from contemporary scientific literature.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

THE FAMILY FOOD SUPPLY — *Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.* Shows the housewife how to get the most vitamins and calories for the least expenditure of money.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

A POPULAR GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF ALLEGANY STATE PARK—A. K. Lobeck—*The University of the State of New York.* An excellently constructed handbook on one of the best organized of state parks, illustrated with many photographs, maps and diagrammatic drawings.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

HANDBOOK OF LABOR STATISTICS—*Government Printing Office.* Over 800 pages, crammed with facts and figures useful to the economist and social worker as well as to the employer of labor.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

ASTRONOMY

Stars Cool At 3600 Degrees

A star is about as cold as it can be at a temperature of 3600 degrees Fahrenheit. At least if there are any cooler stars in the heavens, a search at the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California has not found them. Drs. Paul W. Merrill and Milton L. Humason reported this research to the astronomers.

Two great classes of stars, the giants and dwarfs, are known to astronomers. The giants form a series, depending on their spectral characteristics, revealed when their light is analyzed. This series ends abruptly with a group of red stars whose light increases and diminishes in long periods. At their maximum brightness, they are slightly above 2000 degrees Centigrade, or 3600 degrees Fahrenheit, in temperature.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

ARCHÆOLOGY

En-Shag-Kush-Anna

Three thousand years before the Jews
Had picked the crop of manna,
There was a king in Babylon,—
His name, En-Shag-Kush-Anna.

En-Shag deserves a just renown;
Him, first, our history places.
His name and fame are handed down
Inscribed upon some vases.

He was the king of Kengi, and
Of Bel he was *patesi;*
As both the lay and godly chief
He didn't have it easy.

With fewer gods in Babylon
His job would yet be irksome;
With all the duties that he had,
We're sure he had to shirk some.

Kush-Anna's race we do not know,—
Perhaps it was Sumerian;
But we can state with certainty,
He wasn't Unitarian.

En-Shag's bfffl??gkqj bkp bgkq jjp kqj
The vases say, was Kish;
And thus to slay the Kishite men
Was old Kush-Anna's dish.

No doubt, like kings of later times,
His fault was peculation;
Although, in fairness to the king,
This guess is speculation.

We feel impelled to drop a tear
To dry on our bandana,
When thinking of the early death
Of poor En-Shag-Kush-Anna.

—RICHARD ASHMAN.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

PHYSICS

Radio Waves Act Like Light

Exploring that region of radio waves so short that they approach the invisible heat and infra-red rays, engineers of the General Electric Company have discovered interesting and unexpected phenomena.

An experimental 5-meter radio sending set was recently put into operation at South Schenectady where the experimental radio work of the company is done. Previous tests with sending stations on 15 to 30 meters, wave lengths far below those usually used in broadcasting, had caused the engineers to expect somewhat unusual results, such as complete fading close to the station and extremely satisfactory reception at extreme distances.

But in the preliminary tests with the 5-meter set, it was found that radio signals of that high frequency had a shadow effect very much like light. A small hill prevented reception in the valley beyond. To give the light-like radio waves as long a reach as possible the small transmitting set was hoisted to the top of two fifty-foot towers. Under these conditions it was possible to pick up the signals 32 miles away using 60 watts power. All tests so far have been made during the day, but night tests with 500 watts power are scheduled. A receiving set for the short waves will be placed in the top of the Woolworth Building in New York City, some 135 miles away, in order to test further the properties of the 5-meter waves. This tall New York building was selected because maps show that there is an uninterrupted line of "vision" between it and the Schenectady sending set.

The experimental radio station, 2XAF, operating on a slightly longer wave length, 32.77 meters, has been heard all over the world. Using an antenna only 25 feet long it has been picked up and rebroadcast in Australia. One peculiarity of this sort of radio wave is that it skips over considerable distances, being inaudible, for instance, between 10 and 1,000 miles from the station.

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

A civilization that bores its beneficiaries is perhaps even worse than one which overworks its slaves.—*George W. Alger.*

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927

Every science aims at foresight.—*Comte.*

Science News-Letter, September 10, 1927