

First Glances at New Books

MENTAL HYGIENE—Daniel Wolford LaRue—*Macmillan*. Unlike many rather vague discussions of this subject, mental hygiene is here presented in clean cut fashion against its proper scientific background of psychological and physiological phenomena and psychiatric principles, making a practical text for school courses.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE, Part II—J. G. Frewin—*Oxford University Press, N. Y.* (50c). This little laboratory manual of Scottish origin aims to introduce the young pupil to interesting facts and principles before boring him with tedious numerical conundrums. It covers the elementary physics and chemistry of water and magnetism.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

COMMERCE YEARBOOK, 1926—Vol. 1, United States Department of Commerce—*Government Printing Office* (\$1). As an annual handbook to American commerce and industry this volume is necessary on every library and reference shelf.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

A LABORATORY COURSE IN GENERAL ZOOLOGY—Henry Sherring Pratt—*Ginn and Co.* (\$1.72). A revised edition of the author's "Course in Invertebrate Zoology" to which have been added two sections on the frog and the fish. The whole is designed primarily as a laboratory manual of zoology.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

THE NATURE OF MATTER, GRAVITATION AND LIGHT—Albert P. Mathews—*William Wood and Co.* (\$3.50). The professor of biochemistry at the University of Cincinnati, impatient at the inadequacy for his purposes of the physical and chemical discussions now in the literature, enters the lists with a mathematical-philosophical exposition of his own.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

STANDARDS AND TESTS FOR REAGENT AND C. P. CHEMICALS—B. L. Murray—*Van Nostrand* (\$5). A revised and enlarged edition of this invaluable vade-mecum of the analytical chemist. This book belongs not in the library but right out on the reagent shelf.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

"Hv."

(Air: "Men of Harlech.")

All black body radiations,
All the spectrum variations,
All atomic oscillations
Vary as "hv."

Chorus

Here's the right relation,
Governs radiation,
Here's the new
And only true,
Electrodynamical equation;
Never mind your d/dt^2 ,
 \sqrt{e} or one-half mv^2
(If you watch the factor " c^2 ")
's equal to "hv."

Ultraviolet vibrations,
X and gamma ray pulsations,
Ordinary light sensations
All obey "hv."

Even in matters calorific,
Such things as the heat specific
Yield to treatment scientific
If you use "hv."

In all questions energetic,
Whether static or kinetic,
Or electric, or magnetic,
You must use "hv."

There would be a mighty clearance.
We should all be Planck's adherents,
Were it not that interference
Still defies "hv."

—G. Shearer.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

AVIATION-ENTOMOLOGY

Plane War on Forest Insects

Airplane attacks with poison dust, similar to those used in the American cotton belt against boll weevil, are being tried by the Canadian forest service to check the spruce budworm, one of the most formidable insect enemies of the evergreen forests of the West.

The planes used are of the same type as those used in the cotton work, and the method of attack is similar. The aviator flies low over the tops of the trees, and releases finely powdered calcium arsenate and lead arsenate from a hopper. The wind from the propeller swirls the poison dust out into a swath a hundred feet wide, which settles into the trees and gives the foliage a thin protective coat. If this year's tests show the method to be economically feasible, work on a larger scale will be undertaken next season.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

The Struggle For Death

By SIGMUND FREUD

It would be counter to the conservative nature of instinct if the goal of life were a state never hitherto reached. It must rather be an ancient starting point, which the living being left long ago and to which it harks back again by all the circuitous paths of development. If we may assume as an experience, admitting of no exception that everything living dies from causes within itself and returns to the inorganic, we can only say "*The goal of all life is death,*" and, casting back, "*The inanimate was there before the animate.*"

At one time or another, by some operation of force which still completely baffles conjecture, the properties of life were awakened in lifeless matter. Perhaps the process was a prototype resembling that other one which later in a certain stratum of living matter gave rise to consciousness. The tension then aroused in the previously inanimate matter strove to attain an equilibrium; the first instinct was present, that to return to lifelessness. The living substance at that time had death within easy reach; there was probably only a short course of life to run, the direction of which was determined by the chemical structure of the young organism. So, through a long period of time the living substance may have been constantly created anew, and easily extinguished, until decisive external influences altered in such a way as to compel the still surviving substance to ever greater deviations from the original path of life and to ever more complicated and circuitous routes to the attainment of the goal of death. Quotation from *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*—*Boni and Liveright*.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927

ARCHAEOLOGY

Aztec Dictionary Compiled

A dictionary of the Aztec language is being prepared by Porfirio Aguirro, archæologist of the Mexican National Museum and a native of an Indian village of a thousand inhabitants where only Aztec and Mixtec are spoken.

The only other comprehensive Aztec dictionary in existence is the French one of Remi Simeon, published in Paris in 1885. Simeon himself was never in Mexico but got his data from Colonial documents and authentic manuscripts.

Science News-Letter, October 1, 1927