

First Glances at New Books

THE HUMAN BODY—Logan Clendening—*Knopf*. There is more to this book than bones and blood. The anatomy and physiology are there, to be sure, accurate and complete; but the author has breathed the breath of life into its leaves, what with historical anecdote, and such illustrations as the picture of Vesalius stealing his first skeleton off a public gibbet, and pithily defended personal opinions. Thereby it becomes a book to be read, not merely one to be referred to.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF A SAVANT—Charles Richet—Translated from the French by Sir Oliver Lodge—*Doran* (\$2). The value of science and of scientific workers; the difficulties and uncertainties, the attempts and failures, through which a discoverer of new facts has to go set forth with humor and a unique style with conscious and much unconscious autobiography.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

NOXIOUS GASES—Yandell Henderson and Howard W. Haggard—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$4.50). One of the outcries against the Frankenstein monster of modern industrialism is that its breath poisons the air for those who labor beneath its mighty limbs. The tendency of practical humanitarians, of late days at least, has not been to seek the monster's destruction but rather its subjection, or at least to learn means whereby we may adapt ourselves to a world in which it has made a seemingly permanent place for itself. To this end the data collected into this compact but comprehensive monograph are admirably suited.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

LABORATORY MANUAL OF GENERAL INORGANIC CHEMISTRY—M. Cannon Sneed and Raymond E. Kirk—*Ginn and Co.* (\$1.20). This laboratory guide follows the order of chapters in Sneed's "General Inorganic Chemistry."

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

SOCIAL LIFE IN THE ANIMAL WORLD—Friedrich Alverdes—*Harcourt, Brace and Co.* A translation of a brilliant work by one of the leading professors at the University of Halle. It explores a field to which little attention has hitherto been paid, at least in English scientific literature.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

ALL ABOUT ANIMALS—Lilian Gask—*Crowell* (\$3). The author walks us through the zoo in strictly alphabetical order—from Aardvark and Bandicoot to Yak and Zoril, and tells us, in brief and breezy paragraphs, the main facts about the inhabitants of each cage or pen. Most of us have grown up with a vague feeling that our first Animal A. B. C's, while admirable so far as they went, were somewhat sketchy; here is an Alphabet Book that really completes the job.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

PLANT ECOLOGY—W. B. McDougall—*Lea and Feabiger* (\$3). A compact statement of the principles of plant ecology designed particularly for undergraduate classes; there has been a great demand for such texts and very few attempts to meet it. Appropriately for the purpose of the book, autecological problems receive the principal emphasis; though successions and community studies come in for their share of attention, and instrumental methods are briefly outlined.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION IN JAPAN—Maurice Holland—*National Research Council*. Japan in industrial metamorphosis is described in this little book by one who has studied the applications of science that are being made to the pearl fisheries, aviation, silk and other industries in the land of Nippon.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ADMINISTRATION—R. W. Smith—*Government Printing Office* (70c). This useful addition to the Handbook Series of the U. S. Bureau of Standards gives in condensed form information of use to public officers and all others interested in the marketing public's welfare.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

NEMA HANDBOOK OF RADIO STANDARDS—*National Electrical Manufacturers' Association*. Any new and rapidly growing industry offers endless opportunities for capricious self-determination in definitions and methods that inevitably ends in paralyzing and exceedingly expensive anarchy. Such opportunities are doubled when the industry is so highly technical as radio. This compact compilation, now in its third edition, offers standard definitions of new technical terms and accepted conventional symbols. It will do much to bring order where order is urgently needed.

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

The History of Science

By GEORGE SARTON

It is precisely because of the centrifugal tendencies of modern science that the study of the history of science is so useful. It helps the scientist, whom circumstances have obliged to restrict his attention to a relatively small subject, to eschew lopsidedness and other intellectual deformations and to keep alive within him a unitary view of knowledge. The scientist who has become unable to understand or appreciate other scientific activities than his own is but too prone to imagine his own studies are the very center of knowledge; in that respect he is on the same intellectual level as those ancients who believed that Delphi or Jerusalem was the navel of the world.

We may liken any science to a chain of facts which are linked together in an invariable order. Now, it has happened over and over again that various portions of such logical chains had been completed, but that the links connecting them are still missing. These links were eventually discovered, often by the help of scientific considerations of a radically new order, that is, borrowed from another science, and it was then possible to complete the whole chain in a rigorous and unexceptional manner. If such an event had happened but once, we might ascribe it to chance, but it has happened often that the probability of these occurrences being due to hazard is infinitely small, and we can draw no conclusion but this: *Science is one.*—Quotation from *Introduction to the History of Science.*—*Carnegie Institution of Washington.*

Science News-Letter, October 8, 1927

VETERINARY MEDICINE

X-Rays Diagnose Horse Ills

X-rays for horses are one of the latest advances in veterinary science that have given very satisfactory results at the Veterinary Station Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. They have been found most useful, it is stated, in making diagnoses of broken bones, ossifications and the presence of foreign bodies in the feet. As yet the curative effects of X-ray treatment have not been tried on horses at the Veterinary Hospital.

Since it is not feasible to bring such large animals into the X-ray room, an X-ray machine has been fitted up on a chassis with 18-inch wheels which conveys the apparatus directly to the patient's "bedside."

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