

First Glances at New Books

ADVENTURES IN READING—May Lamberton Becker — *Stokes* (\$2). Mrs. Becker's long experience as "The Reader's Guide" of the Saturday Review of Literature, where she has to handle a pile of letters every day from readers who don't know what they want or can't find it, has given her an exceptional insight into the needs and tastes of all sorts and conditions of men and as many varieties of women. In this volume she shows the same sympathetic helpfulness for young people. She tells them how to find their way through the mazes of the public library and how to start a library of their own. She suggests books to be read when you are in the dumps, when you want adventure and fantasy, when you would like to read a play. Our opinion of the judiciousness of her selection is confirmed when we observe that in her list of science titles fourteen were written or edited by members of Science Service.

Science News-Letter, October 22, 1927

NORTH AMERICA—C. Matheson—*Oxford University Press*. A well-illustrated book intended for boys and girls over twelve. The treatment is on modern scientific lines—from the known to the unknown, from cause to effect. Though a geography, due emphasis is laid on the historical and human sides, and special attention is devoted to industrial and commercial conditions.

Science News-Letter, October 22, 1927

ROOT DEVELOPMENT OF VEGETABLE CROPS—J. E. Weaver and W. E. Bruner—*McGraw-Hill* (\$4). A companion volume to the senior author's Root Development of Field Crops. It applies to a number of the more important vegetables the painstaking methods of root study developed in Professor Weaver's classic researches on the native plants of the western grasslands.

Science News-Letter, October 22, 1927

THE A B C OF HYDROGEN ION CONTROL—*LaMotte Chemical Products Co.* Combines a catalog of indicator sets with a complete manual of their use.

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HYDROCHLORIC ACID AND SODIUM SULFATE—N. A. Laury—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$4). Up-to-date information on the commercial chemistry of these two important products.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Pompeii Yields New Statue

By R. V. D. MAGOFFIN

Professor Magoffin is president of the Archaeological Institute of America and head of the department of classics at New York University.

A marvelous bronze resurrection from the deadening ashes that covered the city of Pompeii has just been officially announced by Professor A. Maiuri. Unearthing this statue in a house in the Street of Abundance is like having the dead come back to life after being buried for eighteen hundred years.

The Street of Abundance of Pompeii has been for some four or five years past the most attractive spot in that ancient Roman town which was buried under the ashes from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A. D. Excavations along this street have held the best pay dirt—as it were—of any of the digs in Pompeii. A huge wooden gate shuts the tourists away from this street. It is quite possible to obtain a special pass by making application to the proper authority, though no cameras are allowed. The excavation has been done slowly and carefully on a specified plan. They dug the ashes out of the street first; now they are taking the houses one at a time and cleaning them out.

The most exciting moment of this century at Pompeii came a few months ago. The excavators dug the ashes out of the doorway of the house, Street of Abundance, No. 11, and started clearing away in the *atrium*, which was the reception room. Nothing much was found. Then they dug ahead into the next room, the *tablinum*, which was a sort of office of the man of the house. At the rear of the room a pilaster, on one side of the door leading back into the second atrium, stuck up above the ashes. As they dug away the ashes, suddenly just in front of the pilaster a magnificent bronze head came into sight. It was the head of a young man with almost Greek profile, with firm lips and with the most splendid head of wavy hair confined by a fillet band. The young man was looking slightly downward and to the right.

As awl and trowel took the place of pick and shovel, for the utmost care was being used, a splendid pair of broad bronze shoulders protruded from the gray-black Vesuvian ash. Soon the young man was uncovered to the knees, and stood unclothed in all his bronze beauty. He was clearly an *ephebus*, that is to say, a youth between eighteen and twenty on his preliminary military service due to the state.

By this time all Italy was in a ferment because the news had spread that a magnificent bronze statue, and best of all, an unbroken and un mutilated one, was rising from the dead past at Pompeii. Perhaps it would turn out to be an original of the best period from the atelier of a famous master!

Speculation was rife because of the position of the arms of the new bronze youth. His left arm hung easily at his side, except that the muscles of the upper arm seemed taut. The right forearm went straight out from the elbow, which was advanced a bit from the body, and the strangely closed right hand seemed to have held something. All sorts of guesses were made, but none of them was right. When the entire statue stood free, it was a nude bronze youth fifty-four inches high, standing easily with his weight on his straight right leg. Both feet were firmly planted on a circular bronze base.

In the ashes near the base of the statue were found two artistic pieces of bronze, alike except in the length of the stem pieces. From a bronze bud spread two bronze tendrils which looped gracefully away one to either side, each one curling under and over, with open flowers at the ends of the curls. On the tendrils of each bronze plant were three bronze holders.

The long stem and plant was placed in the hanging left hand of the bronze statue and the short one in his extended right hand, and lo! the transformation.

The beautiful bronze youth was a candelabrum, a "light bearer." What a magnificent and decorative way to light the *tablinum* of the master of this house, number 11 in the Street of Abundance!

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GENERAL SCIENCE

Too Much To Do

If a man did every day all that the dentists say he ought to do to his teeth, all that the manicures say he ought to do to his hands, all that the barbers say he ought to do to his hair, all that the tailors say he ought to do to his clothes, all that the doctors say he ought to do to his food, all that physical instructors say he ought to do to his muscles, all that the professors say he ought to do to his mind, and all that the preachers say he ought to do to his soul, how could he get any time to himself?—*Edwin E. Slosson.*

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