

First Glances at New Books

AMERICAN MEDICINE AND THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH—Harry H. Moore—*Appleton* (\$5). Presentation of the economic, sociological and political aspects of conditions in the field of medicine today. Of particular interest to all thinking people and to those engaged in public health work.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

THE HUMAN HABITAT—Ellsworth Huntington—*Van Nostrand* (\$3). A very readable account of the influence of geographic factors, especially climate, on the rise and fall of civilizations. The author ranges to every corner of inhabited lands and draws on all periods of history for materials.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

INDUSTRY'S COMING OF AGE—Rexford Guy Tugwell—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3). Here is a survey of the recent technological history of industry. The author presents theories to account for increased production. Barriers to further advance such as lack of intelligent direction and the traditionalized and backward profession of economics are canvassed and remedies indicated.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

STEAM WELLS AND OTHER THERMAL ACTIVITY AT "THE GEYSERS," CALIFORNIA—E. T. Allen and Arthur L. Day—*Carnegie Institution* (\$2.25). An interesting pioneer effort in the utilization of geothermal power here receives complete and authoritative scientific treatment.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF THE UNITED STATES—Bulletin 60—Compiled by Clarence J. West and Ervye L. Risher—*National Research Council* (\$1). A revised and enlarged third edition. The original edition of 1920 listed about 300 industrial laboratories, the present contains data on 1000 laboratories.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION—Meeting of April, 1927—*National Research Council* (\$3). Reports and papers dealing with the scientific discussion of geodesy, seismology, meteorology, terrestrial magnetism and electricity, oceanography, volcanology, and other problems of the figure and physics of the earth.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

DIRECTING MENTAL ENERGY — Francis Aveling—*Doran* (\$2.50). Contains much information about recent research on mental efficiency by a leading British psychologist. The author's aim—to show how we can make economies in our mental and physical energy—suggests a practical working text book of applied psychology. In a sense he achieves this purpose. His objective and impersonal presentation of the subject will be useful to the psychologist applying science in factories, laboratories, and schools. The lay reader, however, will find comparatively little in the discussion that he can transfer direct to his daily life.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

SEX AND REPRESSION IN SAVAGE SOCIETY — Bronislaw Malinowski — *Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.50). Principles of psychoanalysis are herein applied to primitive men and women in order to make clearer their mental attitude toward courtship, mating, and family ties. While not agreeing with Freud in many points, Dr. Malinowski uses his method of approach and shows that in primitive society conflicts and repressions affect behavior just as among higher civilizations.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

VACUUM TUBE AMPLIFIERS FOR AUDIO-FREQUENCY CURRENTS—Walter Joseph Creamer—*University of Maine* (50c). A booklet that explains some fundamentals of radio in a scientific yet understandable way.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

FOREST AND WATER—Raphael Zon—*U. S. Department of Agriculture*. An important summary and bibliography of a subject that is intimately connected with Mississippi flood relief and prevention.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

UPTON SINCLAIR—Floyd Dell—*Doran* (\$2). In the field of economic and sociological writings Upton Sinclair holds a unique place. Why this is so is clearly and interestingly developed in this critical biography.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

MAINTENANCE OF INTERIOR MARBLE—Bureau of Standards Technologic Paper 350—D. W. Kessler—*Government Printing Office* (35c). The practice and theory of cleaning marble.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

TEXTBOOK OF GENERAL ZOOLOGY — Winterton C. Curtis and Mary J. Guthrie—*Wiley* (\$3.75). A college textbook, complete and well illustrated.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

SERUM DIAGNOSIS OF SYPHILIS BY PRECIPITATION—R. L. Kahn—*Williams and Wilkins*. An account of the development, standardization and clinical application of the author's test to determine syphilis.

Science News-Letter, November 12, 1927

MUSIC The Medieval Hurdy-Gurdy

Quotation from HANDBOOK OF THE COLLECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM—Frances Densmore—U. S. Government Printing Office.

The earliest stringed instrument fitted with keys was probably the hurdy-gurdy, which in the Middle Ages was almost as popular as the pianoforte of the present day. It should be understood that the hurdy-gurdy of medieval times was in no way related to the street organ which in modern times is called by that name. It has always been associated with rural life, like the bagpipe, but in the first half of the eighteenth century it contributed to the amusement of the French higher classes during the years when mock shepherds and sheperdesses were in vogue. It is also called a vielle. The old Latin name for the hurdy-gurdy was organistrum, and this form of instrument was so large that it took two persons to play it. The instrument was so long that two players laid it across their knees, and one turned the crank while the other touched the keys. A typical instrument had only one melody string.

The hurdy-gurdy is allied to both bowed and keyed instruments, as its strings are frictioned and their vibrating length is affected by keys. The friction is accomplished by a wheel, operated by a crank which the player turns with his right hand. Four of the five strings are drones, and sound continuously unless moved away from the wheel by a simple contrivance. The melody string over the body of the instrument, and its vibrating length is changed for each note by the pressing of a key, as a violinist stops a string with his fingers. Sometimes two melody strings are used, the pair being tuned in unison. Thus the instrument played a melody with an accompaniment of drone tones, but could not be used for playing part music. As this form of music was greatly enjoyed by the people, the hurdy-gurdy gradually gave way to instruments on which it could be played.

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