

## First Glances at New Books

**THE HIGHER FOOLISHNESS**—David Starr Jordan—*Bobbs-Merrill* (\$2.50). The famous chancellor of Stanford University lightly discusses sciosophy in all its branches. The word means, he says, "by direction, 'the wisdom of shades', and, by inversion, the 'shadow of wisdom.'" Under it he includes such problems as the "spontaneous activity of shadows," photography of thought, astrology, and other manifestations of pseudo-science, so that the book is somewhat reminiscent of Augustus De Morgan.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**NEW METHODS IN GEOMETRICAL OPTICS**—Charles S. Hastings—*Macmillan* (\$2). The distinguished professor of physics of Yale University, who calculated the curves for many of the big telescope lenses, tells of some of the novelties he has employed and how others can apply them.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**GEOLOGY MANUAL** — Richard M. Field—*Princeton University* (\$2.50). Something geology teachers have been waiting for: a compact but comprehensive group of laboratory problems, with space at the end of chapters for the addition of the instructor's remarks and plenty of blank pages and tables for the student's record.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**INVENTIONS AND PATENTS**—Milton Wright — *McGraw-Hill*. What is there to invent? How can an invention be patented? How can capital be raised to market an invention? All these questions, and many others along the same line, are answered in this book by an experienced patent attorney. And his interesting style makes the book as enjoyable reading as a novel.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**THE COMPLETE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER** — Bell R. Bell — *Pitman* (\$2.50). A full and interesting account of newspaper photography as practiced in Britain. American methods are sufficiently similar to make it helpful to the amateur photographer here who wants to make a little money on the side by selling the products of his camera for publication. A similar work, written with American markets particularly in mind, would be very valuable.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**CANDLE DAYS** — Marion Nicholl Rawson—*Century* (\$3.50). If antique-collecting is ever to become anything more than the competitive accumulation of curios, an intelligent literature on the subject will be necessary. This book makes a worthy contribution to that end.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**THIS SMOKING WORLD**—A. E. Hamilton—*Century* (\$2.50). Something of the history of tobacco, a little of its physiology, and a great deal about the the propaganda that periodically rages over its use.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**WHY STOP LEARNING?**—Dorothy Canfield Fisher—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$2). Encouragement for the adult who feels that there is a good deal left to learn but is diffident about his ability to learn it. Suggests ways and means.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**DRAGON LIZARDS OF KOMODO**—W. Douglas Burden—*Putnam*. In addition to full details of the capture of these monsters of the "Lost World" of Malaysia, the book contains many interesting particulars of the human and animal populations of the islands of the Dutch East Indies.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**WEATHER OBSERVATIONS AND AIDS TO FORECASTING**—Donald W. Horner—*Macmillan*. A condensed account of the elements of meteorology as practised in Britain.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**WHO'S WHO IN OCCULTISM, NEW THOUGHT, PSYCHISM AND SPIRITUALISM** — Compiled and edited by William C. Hartmann—*The Occult Press* (\$5). This comprehensive directory and bibliography will be useful to all students of contemporary spiritualism, mysticism, mental healing and abnormal psychology.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**THE LOCOMOTIVE GOD**—William Ellery Leonard—*Century* (\$4). The psychological Pilgrim's Progress of a fine mind hag-ridden by machine-made ills.

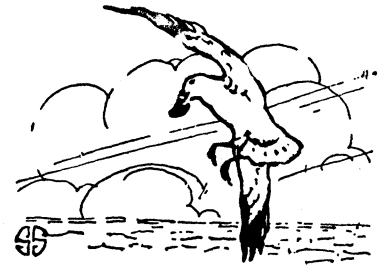
Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

**ELEMENTARY SCIENCE**—Gerald S. Craig—*Columbia University*. Three small paper volumes outlining the elementary science courses as given in the Horace Mann School.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927

## NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



### Seagulls

Seagulls are almost always spoken and written about as a part of the romantic setting of the seacoasts, as though they can not exist apart from salt water. As a matter of fact, however, they are very frequently found hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean frontier, perfectly at home on great inland lakes, though rarely appearing on rivers.

Seagulls are one of the commonest of sights on the Great Lakes, for example, and circle and scream amid the noise and smoke of city waterfronts. Even as far west as Chicago and Milwaukee they are permanent residents, retiring to the mouths of small streams kept unfrozen by commercial pollution when ice blocks the open water in January. They appear on the Great Salt Lake in Utah, and on that highest of North American freshwater bodies, Yellowstone Lake. On these two lakes, however, they are not permanent denizens, but migrate to the ocean in winter. Some naturalists state that they go to the Gulf of California—a route which may have been established many milleniums ago, when the Pacific extended eastward much farther than it does at present.

The gulls of the Great Salt Lake are rigidly protected by Utah law; it is a crime to kill one. When the first Mormon settlers planted their first crop, hordes of crickets began to ravage the fields and starvation stared the colony in the face. When the situation appeared most desperate, clouds of white gulls suddenly appeared. Settling on the fields, they fed on the crickets, sweeping the pest away as the insects had lately threatened to sweep the crops. The devout Mormons hailed this as a direct act of Providence, and gulls have been sacred birds in Utah ever since. The finest monument on the Temple grounds in Salt Lake City was erected not to Joseph Smith nor to Brigham Young, but to the white-winged gulls of the sea.

Science News-Letter, December 3, 1927