

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

**PHYSIOLOGY**—V. H. Mottram—*Norton* (\$3). A straightforwardly written textbook of human physiology. An even hundred of its 264 pages of text are devoted to the nervous system, with an additional chapter on the hormones; the book will be especially valuable, therefore, to students who are preparing for courses in psychology.

*Physiology*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE SKIN**—Albert Strickler—*Appleton* (\$1.50). A small, concisely and simply written book that gives valuable information on the skin, including the hair and scalp, and how to take care of it.

*Hygiene*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**FUNDAMENTALS OF DAIRY SCIENCE**—Associates of Lore A. Rogers—*Chemical Catalog* (\$5.50). A most excellent book for its field; thoroughgoing but not too detailed, covering all necessary points and giving concisely all necessary information. It automatically becomes indispensable for the libraries of agricultural colleges, experiment stations, chemistry and bacteriology departments, and fully trained practical dairy farmers.

*Agriculture*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE GARDEN LOVER**—L. H. Bailey—*Macmillan* (\$1.50). Another of the discursive, mellow little books with which Dr. Bailey has lately been delighting horticulturists and botanists and folk in general who like the smell of new-turned earth and the green of new leaves.

*Horticulture*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE ANNUALS OF FLOWERLAND**—Alice T. A. Quackenbush—*Macmillan* (\$1.50). Condensed botanical information, interspersed with anecdotes from the history of horticulture.

*Horticulture*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE CHARM OF BIRDS**—Viscount Grey of Fallodon—*Stokes*. Showing that it is still possible to be a gentleman and a statesman and a scholar all in the same lifetime.

*Ornithology*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE PHEASANTS**—Louise Connolly—*Newark Museum*. A bright and chattily written popular account of three new pheasant exhibits in the Newark Museum.

*Ornithology*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE DREAMS OF YOUTH**—Walter Amos Morgan—*Century* (\$2).

It takes a high and unusual kind of genius to be able to talk acceptably for children. Dr. Morgan has this gift which belonged to Stevenson, to Eugene Field, and to few living writers.

The children's stories, which he was accustomed to tell every Sunday morning when he was pastor of the Mount Pleasant Congregational Church, Washington, neither began with a text like a sermon nor ended with a moral like a fable. The children were left to find the lesson for themselves and they found it. Their elders were equally interested and impressed with these unpretentious tales. "The Dreams of Youth" are the sort of stories that children love to hear read to them over and over again.

*Religion*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**ADVENTURE**—Burnett H. Streeter and others—*Macmillan* (\$2). A series of essays in that difficult and fascinating twilight zone where science, philosophy and religion impinge on each other.

*Philosophy*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**RESEARCH IN THE HUMANISTIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**—Frederic Austin Ogg—*Century*. Status of research, its tendencies and directions, in these branches of learning, as revealed by a recent survey.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**MAJOR SPORT FUNDAMENTALS**—Charles Edward Hammett—*Scribners* (\$2). A guide to the making of winning teams in football, baseball, basketball and track.

*Sports*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**A COURSE IN GENERAL BIOLOGY**—Henry Sherring Pratt—*Ginn* (\$1.48). A compact laboratory manual for a course on the type basis.

*Biology*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**ANNALS OF NIAGARA**—William Kirby—*Macmillan*. A new edition of a Canadian history of Niagara and the events that took place around it.

*History*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

**THE AMERICAN AND THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY**—Charles Franklin Thwing—*Macmillan* (\$2.25). A man who is thoroughly acquainted with American universities from the inside discusses the part that the German universities have played in their development.

*Education*  
*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

## Big Trees Hurt by Feet

*Botany*

Ancient mythologies tell of gods slain by their worshippers; and something of the kind is happening in the Big Tree grove of Mariposa County, where thousands of tourists are unconsciously destroying that which they come hundreds of miles to admire. At the request of the National Park Service, Dr. E. P. Meinecke, U. S. Forest Service plant pathologist, has investigated the present status of the cherished sequoias and has reached the conclusion that long-continued and heavy trampling of human feet has destroyed the root endings and finer roots of many of the trees. Without these of course the trees are unable to absorb water and mineral nutrients from the soil.

The rescue of Grizzly Giant, one of the finest Big Trees in existence, from a similar fate about 25 years ago, is recalled. Trampling had destroyed its root endings, and friends of the tree were at a loss to know what to do. Finally it was suggested by George T. Harlow, at that time guardian of the grove, that the soil surrounding the tree be loosened somewhat and that additional soil be placed around the trunk and over the roots to a height of three or four feet. The experiment, though ridiculed at the time, proved entirely successful, and the old tree was restored to health.

*Horticulture*

*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*

## Seedless Persimmons

*Horticulture*

The native American persimmon, which has long been an object of much local appreciation but has never been widely cultivated, is booked for a course of improvement which may put it into the class of highly desirable orchard fruits. According to a communication in the *Journal of Heredity* which will soon be issued, a search is being made for promising trees that bear seedless fruits. Such specimens are known to occur occasionally in nature. Robert T. Morris of Stamford, Conn., is undertaking to propagate seedless persimmons found in the northern part of the range of the species, and Dr. J. E. Cannaday of Charleston, W. Va., will cultivate trees found in the South. The two men invite any one who knows of a seedless persimmon tree to correspond with them.

*Science News-Letter, March 17, 1928*