

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE STORY OF THE MOON—Garrett P. Serviss—*Appleton* (\$3). Though this is a reprint of a book published in 1907, the easy style and the charm of the narrative in which the important facts about the moon are brought out still make it of great appeal. While important researches have been made in the last twenty years that are not mentioned, it is still, for the most part, quite accurate.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

ROSSEL ISLAND—W. E. Armstrong—*Cambridge Univ. Press*. A very complete account of an island of Papua. Whether the author is writing of sorcery, feasts, or the houses built by the natives, he presents exact and detailed information which will undoubtedly be appreciated by ethnologists and other students of man. The greater part of the book makes interesting reading, however, for non-scientific purposes, since it is easy to skip the intricacies of how a Rossel Islander figures out family relationships and how his remarkable monetary system works. A good collection of clear photographs adds to the value of the book.

*Geography*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE BUILDING OF CULTURES—Roland B. Dixon—*Scribner's* (\$4). How and why an invention like the alphabet spread into the world; and how and why another invention like printing was hidden in one very limited corner of the globe for centuries, these are fascinating matters. Dr. Dixon makes a thorough study of the details that cultures are made of, and fits the pieces of the puzzle together to show how cultures have been shaped. Appropriately, the book ends with a discussion of the "complex and glittering" civilization that we are building today.

*Anthropology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

LABORATORY LAYOUTS FOR THE HIGH-SCHOOL SCIENCES—A. C. Monahan—*Bulletin of U. S. Bureau of Education—Government Printing Office* (15c). What test-tubes, batteries, microscopes, desks, tables and other apparatus to buy in order to give the proper setting for the instruction in chemistry, physics, biology or general science.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES—Prof. C. F. Teusch of Harvard says in *The Journal of Philosophy*: Students of social phenomena frequently become envious of the exemplary simplicity and methodological rigor of the natural sciences. One unfortunate result has been a premature adoption of the name—one nowadays takes for granted the term "social sciences"—without a compensatory achievement of the substance. A more serious effect of stressing the analogy has been the attempt to make these social "sciences" walk on all fours—and often at sixes and sevens, as in the perversion of "statistical" and "laboratory" methods—in slavish imitation of methods which are not only inapplicable and viciously deceptive, but fruitless and even derogatory to the more important possibilities of social inquiry.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH RECORD—Harold O. Ruh and Justin A. Garvin—*Appleton* (\$2.50). A kind of scientific baby book. Properly kept should prove an invaluable asset both to parents and to the young subject after he or she is grown up.

*Psychology-Hygiene*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

INTELLIGENCE AND MENTAL GROWTH—C. A. Claremont—*Norton* (\$1). A theory of intelligence is argued, with many references to Mme. Montessori's principles used in developing intellectual activity.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE CRIMINAL AND HIS ALLIES—Marcus Kavanagh—*Bobbs-Merrill* (\$3). Here is a book on crime that deals in specific facts, figures, cases, and suggestions as to what to do. Judge Kavanagh's purpose is "to enlighten the general public as to actual conditions of crime in this country, the needs of the situation, the responsibility for its continuance and the nearest remedy for its evils".

*Psychology—Criminology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

WHAT AM I?—Edward G. Spaulding—*Scribner* (\$2). A professor of philosophy discusses such matters as heredity, reality, conduct, and religious belief, with the aim of orienting the reader in his own personal universe.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

MORE ARISTOCRATS OF THE GARDEN—Ernest H. Wilson—*Stratford* (\$5). The author, one of the most indefatigable of botanist-explorers now living, puts into this book the fruits of his wide travel and boundless enthusiasm for good trees and shrubs that come from foreign lands to enrich the none-too-varied assortment we have inherited from our fathers. Out-of-the-ordinary plants are no more difficult to cultivate than conventional ones, he tells us, and many of them are really not especially difficult to obtain.

*Horticulture*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

EVERGREENS FOR THE SMALL PLACE—F. F. Rockwell—*Macmillan* (\$1). This book gives in its small compass an astonishing mass of information about those dwarf conifers that have become so popular of late, for small city and suburban plantings. The annotated lists of varieties will be a great help to the prospective planter.

*Horticulture*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

HUMAN VALUES AND VERITIES—Henry Osborn Taylor—*Macmillan*. A careful appraisal of the good and the true as man has achieved them in various times and fashions.

*Philosophy*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE PEOPLE OF THE TWILIGHT—By Diamond Jenness—*Macmillan* (\$3). An entertaining account of the semi-communal life of the Eskimo of Northern Alaska that is rapidly disappearing before the influence of white civilization.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

MYTHS AND THEIR MEANING—Max J. Herzberg—*Allyn and Bacon*. A small, very well-illustrated volume intended for high-school students and a handy reference book for more general use.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*

THE WAR DEBTS—Philip Dexter and John Hunter Sedgwick—*Macmillan* (\$1.50). A good tempered and moderate discussion of the difference between the European and the American points of view on the war debt question. The authors affirm the validity of the debts but question the practical wisdom of trying to collect them.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, August 4, 1928*