

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE MIND OF THE GROWING CHILD—Edited by Vicountess Erleigh—*Oxford University Press* (\$1.75). Lectures by fifteen well-known British child specialists, originally given before an audience of "educated mothers". The subjects, which were chosen by the mothers, include jealousy, children's books, psychology of infancy, and the effect of sunlight on the psychology of the child. As Sir James Crichton-Browne writes in the preface of the little volume: "The anxious parent—and every parent should feel more or less anxious in these tumultuous times—will gain from them much fresh insight in genetic psychology and many helpful suggestions. 'Evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart', and there is a good deal of unintentional cruelty to children—especially to those who deviate in any way from what is supposed to be the regulation standard—arising out of heedlessness, an inappreciation of mental values, and the erroneous but very prevalent conception that the child is the miniature of the adult man."

Psychology
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS—H. T. Güssow and W. S. Odell—*Dominion Department of Agriculture* (\$1). A full systematic account of the higher fungi of Canada (applicable to the Northern United States as well), clearly and understandably written, excellently illustrated with scores of full-page plates, and sold at an astonishingly low price. The Dominion government has "done itself proud" in producing this book.

Botany
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

THE SOILS OF CUBA—H. H. Bennett and R. V. Allison—*Tropical Plant Research Foundation* (\$6.50). Agriculturists recognize that the sugar cane plantation system in Cuba is at a critical point in its history. Extensive cultivation has about reached its economic limit, and must be succeeded by intensive cultivation. This study prepares the way for the reformation, and incidentally provides for Cuba's other crops a scientific foundation which they have hitherto lacked.

Agronomy
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

FLORA OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE—Paul C. Standley—*Contr. from the U. S. National Herbarium, Vol. 27*. The Canal Zone, because of its easy accessibility and its provision of the amenities of civilization, is bound to be increasingly the resort of botanists with a little time at their disposal to get a taste of the tropics. These, as well as the fewer fortunates who can take their tropics more at length and leisure, will be thankful to Mr. Standley for having put into one convenient volume a complete systematic treatment of the higher plants of this region.

Botany
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

SOVIET RUSSIA IN THE SECOND DECADE—A Joint Survey by the Technical Staff of the First American Trade Union Delegation, edited by Stuart Chase, Robert Dunn and Rexford Guy Tugwell—*John Day* (\$4). Information about a variety of subjects—economic, sociologic and educational—in present-day Russia, compiled by a group of competent observers after a six weeks' tour of investigation.

Economics—Sociology
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

THEORY OF CONTINENTAL DRIFT—W. A. J. M. van Waterschoot van der Gracht and others—*Am. Assn. of Petroleum Geologists* (\$3.50). A symposium by leading geologists on one of the most fascinating phases of speculative geology.

Geology
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

WE FIGHT FOR OIL—Ludwell Denny—*Knopf* (\$3). Mr. Denny develops a disturbingly well-supported thesis that the present major struggle in international politics, which may in the end lead to war between the United States and Britain, is for the control of the world's oil fields.

Economics—Geography
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

AND SO TO COLLEGE—Thyrza W. Amos and others—*Univ. of Pittsburgh* (50c). A series of six radio talks on a timely subject.

Education
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

AMERICAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS—E. D. Graper—*Univ. of Pittsburgh* (60c). A series of eight radio talks, published at a time when they will be of unusual interest.

History
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

SAFETY AND PRODUCTION—A Report by the American Engineering Council—*Harper's* (\$5). The relationship between industrial safety and production in over sixteen industries was subjected to careful study by a committee of experts. Their findings, chiefly expressed in charts, are given, together with a short digest of the report and recommendations for methods of handling the problem. The book should be a valuable aid to industrial and safety engineers and executives.

Industrial Engineering
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

THE STREAM OF HISTORY—Geoffrey Parsons—*Scribner's* (\$5). A history of the world from the creation, whenever that was, to the present time, including all military, political, artistic and scientific developments, in 567 pages. Over half the book is devoted to prehistoric and ancient historic times, up to the fall of Rome. While much that is ordinarily considered important is slighted, the author is successful in conveying his conception of history as a single stream that is still flowing on to an unknown but inevitable sea.

History
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

HISTORY OF THE SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF YALE UNIVERSITY—Russell H. Chittenden—*Yale Univ. Press* (\$10). The Sheffield Scientific School at Yale has played such an important part in scientific history that a history as complete as given in these two volumes is a valuable contribution. As its director from 1898 to 1922, Dr. Chittenden is without doubt the best qualified person to write such a history, and he has made full use of his opportunity.

General Science—Education
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928

ZOOLOGY, OLD AND NEW—R. T. Hance—*Univ. of Pittsburgh* (60c). Professor Hance has put together a series of eight radio talks into a very readable popular account of the history of zoology. He devotes a good deal of space to entertaining discussions of the weird things zoologists believed in the early days when the dividing line between hard fact and "unnatural history" was not very clearly drawn.

History of Science
Science News-Letter, August 18, 1928