

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

CARNACK, THE LIFE BRINGER—Oliver Marble Gale—*Wise* (\$3). The home life of one of our Stone Age ancestors. Interpretative accounts of the manners and thoughts of extremely primitive ancient men generally lack the dramatic force of real reports of remarkable new-found cave paintings, graves, and household possessions. Still, unless an individual has scraped up acquaintance with prehistoric men sufficiently to picture for himself the people who used the flint axes, and who made the strange drawings, he will probably never see why such things are so interesting to some people. For this type of reader, with hazy ideas about the roots of his family tree, this book supplies just the sort of general background information to make a cave man seem like a human being. The foreword by Dr. A. V. Kidder is an interesting endorsement of the book.

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

THE REDEMPTION OF TYCHO BRAHE—Max Brod (Trans. Felix Warren Crosse)—*Knopf* (\$2.50). Despite the fascinating history of some of the heroes of science, novelists in general have neglected them in their search for material. In this modern German novel, however, Tycho Brahe, greatest and last of the pre-telescopic astronomers, appears as a living personality, not as the demi-god which sometimes represents him. His meeting with Kepler, following his expulsion from Uraniborg and his coming to Prague to join the court of the Emperor Rudolph, and the influence of the two men on each other furnish the theme of the book. Tycho represents the old school of science—Kepler the new, but in the end they both see that they are seeking the same ideals.

Astronomy

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

THE AGE OF REASON—Philip Gibbs—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$2). An engaging novel whose concluding chapter leaves one feeling that the deep-seated wish for immortality colored and capped a good story. But that will depend upon whether you side with Hesketh, whose religion was biology, Margaret, whose love for Hesketh did not include his science, Viola the pagan goddess, Richard the convert to Catholicism or Guy who failed to conquer his life problem.

Fiction

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES Vol. IV—National Research Council—*McGraw-Hill* (\$12). This installment of this standard reference work is devoted to phase-equilibrium data (especially solubilities), osmotic pressure and properties of surfaces (surface tension, etc.) It joins the three previously published volumes in the reference librarian's heaven.

Physics—Chemistry

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

THE NEW QUANTUM MECHANICS—George Birtwistle—*Cambridge University Press* (\$5.50). For those who wish to keep up with the new physics, for those who read fluently the shorthand of equations, for those who walk with Schrödinger, Einstein, de Broglie, Heisenberg, Born and other pioneers, this book is a necessity.

Physics

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY—James Bryant Conant—*Macmillan* (\$2.60). In this chemical world today structural formulæ of the compounds of carbon are just as important as mathematical equations. And since they are the wands of the organic chemist, they may seem to have more application to a materialistic world. This textbook will therefore interest those seekers of chemical knowledge who under the influence of the spectacular accomplishments of chemistry want to know how sticky dirt is made into wealth and beauty.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

A STATISTICAL STUDY OF VIRGINIA—Wilson Gee and John J. Corson, 3d—*Institute for Research in the Social Sciences*. This first monograph from the institute, at the University of Virginia, is a careful and valuable analytical study. The authors point out that Virginia is in a transition period and that statistics show where the state is backward and where good progress is being made. The bulletin is addressed to the average citizen, and is intended as a background of information "upon which may be built a program of betterment for the whole-sided development of the State of Virginia."

Sociology

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

THE STORY OF GEOLOGY—Allan L. Benson—*Cosmopolitan* (\$4). A well-illustrated popular presentation of the main facts of geology.

Geology

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

PSYCHOLOGY, A SIMPLIFICATION—Lloyd Ring Coleman and Saxe Commins—*Boni and Liveright* (\$3). The demand frequently heard for a book on psychology that an average reader can understand is receiving attention. Here is a surprising amount of current scientific knowledge compressed into a limited space, and done in readable fashion. It gives the reader an introduction to some of the more important schools of psychology. It discusses mental abnormalities and diseases, criminal behavior, animal psychology, the development of children. There is a chapter devoted to those by-paths of the mind that fascinate and perplex the public—hypnotism, dreams, and spiritualistic manifestations. A selected bibliography at the end of the book, with an explanatory note on each suggested reference, enables the reader to extend his acquaintance with any of the topics that particularly stir his interest.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

DIABETIC MANUAL FOR PATIENTS—Henry J. John—*Mosby* (\$2). Simple discussion of the cause and course of the disease, its treatment, insulin, and dietary factors. Charts and tables of carbohydrate content of foods, diets and recipes are included in this useful book.

Medicine

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, 1927—U. S. Dept. of Agriculture—*Govt. Printing Office* (\$1.50). What's New in Agriculture, to the extent of 1,234 pages. Everything from p. 723 on is statistical tables and index. Close-packed fact, all of it useful to somebody.

Agriculture

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 1927—Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne. Contains a mass of useful information on the history, population, resources, etc., of the great Commonwealth of the South.

Sociology—Economics

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928

"J. T., JR."—Delia J. Akeley—*Macmillan* (\$2.25). A story of African exploration and hunting, centered around the biography of a monkey.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, August 25, 1928