

GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

HEREDITY AND CHILD CULTURE—Henry Dwight Chapin—*Dutton* (\$2.50). The popularity and usefulness of this book is attested by the fact that this is a new and enlarged edition. The part played by heredity and environment in the making of an individual are the themes discussed practically and intelligibly. Henry Fairfield Osborne, in a foreword, strikes the keynote, saying: "It is very important that all parents, all teachers, and all physicians should understand the interlocking relations of heredity and environment."

Eugenics—Euthenics
Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

A TEACHER'S MANUAL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION—Henry Panzer—*Barnes* (\$2). This is one of the old-style manuals reissued, covering gymnastics for boys, arranged according to ages. There is a distinctly foreign note in the construction of some of the sentences and in the material emphasized.

Physical Education
Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

THE PACIFIC—P. T. Etherton and H. Hessell Tiltman—*Little, Brown* (\$3). A comprehensive survey of present conditions in the Pacific and countries bordering it, with a forecast of future developments there. Lieut.-Col. Etherton served as English Consul-General in Chinese Turkestan and as Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court for China. The book is illustrated, but a map of the region would have added much for the average reader, rusty on his geography.

Sociology-Economics
Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

THE NERVOUS CHILD AND HIS PARENTS—Frank Howard Richardson—*Putnam's* (\$2.50). Explains in simple language what the nervous child is, why he is nervous and what to do about it. The book is convincingly written by an authority in the field and is delightfully illustrated.

Psychology-Child Hygiene
Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

SAFARI—M. E. Johnson—*Putnam's*. To Americans only a trifle more than a generation removed from the days when vast herds of bison and pronghorn swarmed on the Western plains, this book by a veteran at the game of travel in the African country will have a special appeal.

Travel
Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

Italians Resurrect Cyrene

Archæology
The ruins of five ancient cities of Cyrenaica in northern Africa, forming a link between the much-studied Egyptian civilizations to the east and the region being explored by the French in Tunis, are now being dug out of their age-long burial in the sand by expeditions under the auspices of the Italian government.

The name of at least one city of the region is familiar to every Sunday School student, for it was from Cyrene that Simon came, whom the soldiers compelled to bear the cross after Jesus on the way to Calvary. Archæological work in what is now Italian Africa was forbidden during the centuries of the old Turkish dominance, but now the restrictions are removed and the excavations are going forward rapidly.

The region of Cyrenaica was originally colonized by the Greeks during the seventh century before Christ, and during the period of Greek ascendancy was a place of high civilization. It was in its decline at the time of Christ, and a few years later became the scene of violent conflict between the Greek populace and Jewish settlers.

Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

Light on Infections

Medicine
A medical progress note prepared by the American Association for Medical Progress.

Hitherto most of the study of susceptibility and resistance to disease has been confined to individual diseases. In the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, Dr. Louise Pearce publishes a series of articles on the reciprocal effects of concomitant infections. Vaccinal inoculations of rabbits were performed simultaneously with syphilitic inoculations. The ensuing syphilis proved to be extremely severe; not, it would appear, as the result of increased susceptibility, but rather as the result of decreased resistance on the part of the animals. Apparently this is a field in which further studies may be expected to yield fruitful results.

Science News-Letter, September 15, 1928

Make Gas from Lignite

Chemistry
Gas for fuel and illuminating purposes can be made satisfactorily from lignite, recent experiments at Marburg on the Drau in Styria indicate. This work is being watched with much interest by Austrian engineers and industrialists, because up to the present Austria has had to import high-grade anthracite for its gas works.

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NATURE RAMBLINGS

BY FRANK THONE

Natural History



Hackberry

One of the most widely distributed of American forest trees, even though not an especially abundant one, is the hackberry. Its several New World species range from Southern Quebec westward as far as Washington and Oregon and southward into Texas and Florida. On the Atlantic seaboard it is not very plentiful, but scattering specimens keep one reminded of its presence. It prefers the deep, rich soil of moist river terraces, though it will grow well in cultivation almost everywhere.

It is a really handsome tree, with straight, clean-cut trunk usually a foot or so in diameter, though occasionally reaching as much as three or four. The bark is unmistakable—rough, ridged, pebbly. No other tree has a bark quite like it. The twigs are fine and slender, often afflicted with the fungus disease known as witches' brooms. The leaves are more or less like those of the elm, to which the tree is rather closely related.

The hackberry is used occasionally as a street tree, although its trick of striving for height without a branching trunk does not make it a favorite for that purpose. No planting scheme should ignore it entirely, however, because it is one of the most characteristic of American trees.

Because of its scarcity in most parts of the country, it has but little use as lumber. The wood is heavy and soft, without much strength, but yields itself readily enough to working. It finds some utilization in the making of cheap furniture, boxes, loose barrels, and similar more or less lowly occupations. But it is better left alive than killed for such non-descript ends.

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