

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

ASTRONOMY AND COSMOGONY—Sir J. H. Jeans—*Cambridge Univ. Press* (\$10.25). Only a short time ago King George knighted Prof. Jeans, for the very work that he describes in this book, and probably no similar honor has ever been more deserved. Sir James is one of the few men of science of whom it can be said that when he says something, the scientific world stops to listen. Here he presents, in 420 large octavo pages, the latest fruits of his labors, and as such it represents the last word in the subject indicated by its title. Though it is hardly a book for the beginner, with its frequent mathematical derivations, there is enough non-mathematical material in it to make it welcome to any reader of astronomical works, or to anyone, familiar with modern physical concepts, who wants to know of the latest views on the nature of the cosmos. Numerous tables give admirable summaries of what we know about various classes of objects. The first chapter, "The Astronomical Survey of the Universe," gives an account of the universe and what we know about it, from electrons to nebulae, that has never before been equaled for conciseness and accuracy.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

THE NEW QUANTUM MECHANICS—George Birtwistle—*Cambridge Univ. Press* (\$5.50). With physical science developing so rapidly, it is hard even for the physicist to keep abreast of the latest phases of the quantum theory, the Schrödinger wave mechanics or Dirac's important work on the emission and absorption of radiation. But here is the last word on it, by one of the leading authorities, a fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge. Naturally, it bristles with higher mathematics.

Physics
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

PRACTICAL COLOR SIMPLIFIED—William J. Miskella—*Finishing Research Lab'y* (Chicago) (\$3.50). For anyone who has occasion to use color and color combinations in work or pleasure, this book will prove of interest, for it contains suggestions for all sorts of color work, all based on practical experience. The color charts are especially useful for visualizing the results.

Physics—Art
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

BENEATH TROPIC SEAS—William Beebe—*Putnam's* (\$3.50). Just the announcement that there's another Beebe book out is enough to cause those who know to reach for their telephones and call up their book-dealers. If there be still any who do not know Beebe's style, this book is a good place to begin the acquaintance; the more so since its frontispiece is one of those lovely other-side-of-the-moon submarine paintings by Zarh Pritchard. *Beneath Tropic Seas* is the popular-presentation side of a long series of marine biological researches, which will eventually bear fruit in more technical monographic form.

Marine Biology
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

MARVELS OF SCIENCE—M. K. Wisheart—*Century* (\$2.50). This is a most worthy addition to the growing family of books that give the casual reader large but painless doses of information about the scientific foundation of the world he lives in. The miracles of radiovision, X-rays, radium and the rest are all duly set forth; but even more remarkable and unsuspected facts about such commonplace things as glass and paint are what give the book real point and pith.

General Science
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES—Pitirim Sorokin—*Harper* (\$4). An excellent antidote for any sociologist, amateur or professional, whose sociology is in danger of becoming one-sided. Prof. Sorokin presents a keen analytical study of the prevailing theories of sociology—mechanistic, bio-social, psychological, anthropo-racial, and the rest. The criticisms and specific facts that he cites in making his points will be particularly useful to the student who finds himself at sea to test the weakness or strength of rival points of view; and his references to about one thousand authorities make the work a valuable informal encyclopedia.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

PRE-DEVONIAN PALEOZOIC FORMATIONS OF THE CORDILLERAN PROVINCES OF CANADA—Charles D. Walcott—*Smithsonian Institution*. A posthumous monograph by the late secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Geology—Paleontology
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

THE LIVING AGE—*New York* (\$4 a year). This landmark of the world of literature and current events, a stand-by of our fathers and grandfathers before us, now appears in an entirely new format. The page size has been increased and the magazine is departmentalized and illustrated. The text maintains its accustomed high standard, and the new form will doubtless serve to bring it to many readers, used to standardized magazine shapes, who would not have noticed *The Living Age* in its old-time Cinderella dress.

Current Events
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

OPINIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE. Opinions 98 to 104—*Smithsonian Institution*. Of interest to taxonomic zoologists.

Zoology
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

NOTES ON THE BUFFALO-HEAD DANCE OF THE THUNDER GENS OF THE FOX INDIANS—*Bulletin 87, Bureau of American Ethnology*—Truman Michelson—*Government Printing Office*. Interesting ceremonial rites recorded from trustworthy Indian sources and translated literally. Dr. Michelson presents Indian text on the opposite page to the English and discusses linguistic problems of the Indian text.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928

NOTED WITNESSES FOR PSYCHIC OCCURRENCES—Compiled by the Research Officer of the Boston Society for Psychic Research—*Boston Society for Psychic Research*. In many people's lives there occur puzzling experiences that they remember all their days and try to account for. Such experiences reported by 170 famous people, mostly from their own lives, are collected in this volume. Contributions include 20 men of science, such as William James, Hudson Maxim, Linnaeus, and Swedenborg. Lawyers, statesmen, theologians, artists, and soldiers are among other classes of persons who present incidents involving telepathy, apparitions, premonitions, and other phenomena which they generally conclude to be "supernormal." Comments appended to many of the incidents by the Research Officer add very much to the value and interest of the collection.

Psychic Research
Science News-Letter, October 6, 1928