

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

ENGINES—E. N. daC. Andrade—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3). For many years the Christmas lectures, given at the Royal Institution, have been an important part of the intellectual life of London, interesting not only to the children for whom they are theoretically intended, but to adults as well. To read a list of those who have given the lectures is to call a roll of most of the leading names in British science in the past century. The present book contains the lectures given in this series last year by Prof. Andrade, and it is in all respects a worthy member of the series. He shows how scientific principles have been applied to give us the many sources of mechanical power that we have today. In addition, he tells of many new or less-known things about them. For instance, one reads of the Kitson-Still locomotive, which combines a Diesel and steam engine; and of the Michell thrust block, which makes possible efficient propulsion of the largest liners. Finally, since the refrigerating machine is simply an engine reversed, he brings it in as well. And throughout the language is simple.

*Mechanics*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

AN EASY POCKET STAR GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS—H. R. Kingston—*Author* London, Ontario (\$.50). This is a little booklet, small enough to slip into the vest pocket, containing the star charts for each month, from Mc Kready's "Beginner's Star-Book" (*Putnam*). In addition, there is a list of English equivalents of the Latin constellation names, and a table showing the positions of the planets until 1933. For anyone who desires a particularly handy set of star charts, this is just the thing.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

STANDARDS AND STANDARDIZATION—Norman F. Harriman—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). Here is a complete account of the science of standardization, written by a man who, as senior engineer-physicist of the Bureau of Standards, may be presumed to be an authority on the subject. The accounts of the development of standards, and of the standards that are in use today, are especially interesting. A complete list of the standardizing bodies of the world is also of considerable value.

*Engineering*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

BEYOND THE ELECTRON—Sir J. J. Thomson—*Cambridge Univ. Press* (\$.80). Probably no living physicist is better qualified to talk about the structure of the electron than Sir Joseph. Here, in a lecture given recently in England, he summarizes the latest views, including some new work of his son, Prof. G. P. Thomson, that affords new evidence of the wave nature of electrons. The mathematical parts are relegated to an appendix, so it is a booklet to be recommended to anyone who wants to know of the latest scientific ideas on this important subject.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS—J. Herbert Blackhurst—*Century* (\$2.50). With the importance of mathematics in all branches of science, it is especially important that the student be properly grounded. This practical textbook tells the embryo teacher how to do it.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

FUN WITH FIGURES—A. Frederick Collins—*Appleton* (\$2.00). Magic squares, perpetual motion schemes, oddities of numbers, perpetual calendars, illustrated with clever drawings by the author, make up this book. Every mathematics or science teacher should have it to enliven his courses.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

DOES THE EARTH ROTATE—William Edgell—*Author* (Radstock, Somerset, England) (2s). Here is the latest contribution of the flat and stationary earth paradoxes that DeMorgan so ably handled in his classic "Budget of Paradoxes." The author's arguments are not likely to mislead any reader of the NEWS-LETTER. A book of this nature is not without its usefulness, however. For one thing, it might be useful as an exercise for students, to have them point out the fallacies. Also, it demonstrates that there is still work for science educators for, nearly four centuries after Copernicus, there are still people who are unconvinced of what those who have made it their lifetime study recognize as proven fact.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

THE ENGINEER: HIS WORK AND HIS EDUCATION—R. L. Sackett—*Ginn* (\$1.40). With the spotlight shining anew on the engineering profession because of the selection of one of their number as Republican candidate for President, many young men are considering it for their life work. This little book is just the thing to put into the hands of the young men who want to know what engineering is, what are the distinctions between its various branches, how does it pay, and how should one go about getting into it.

*Engineering*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

ALADDIN U. S. A.—Ernest Greenwood—*Harper* (\$2.50). A popular and interesting account of electricity in America. Edison contributes a brief foreword.

*Electricity*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

NEMA HANDBOOK OF RADIO STANDARDS—*Natl. Elec. Mfrs. Assn.* (\$2). Here are summarized the standard definitions of radio terms, standard symbols used in wiring diagrams, standard methods of testing, etc. Anyone who has to do any writing, drawing or lecturing in connection with radio will find it a useful reference work.

*Radio*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS—*Government Printing Office* (\$1.25). The latest edition of this annual publication contains a valuable summary of progress in aviation during the past year, in addition to the reports of the activities of the committee, and 26 technical reports on aeronautical engineering.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*

ELEMENTS OF AVIATION—Virginius Evans Clark—*Ronald Press* (\$3.00). In this new work in the publisher's aeronautic library the reader will find summarized the principles of airplane flight without the mathematics of more technical treatises. Also, says the author in his preface, it is intended to help the members of the general public who want to be able to speak the language of aeronautics with assurance. A foreword by General Patrick testifies to the author's qualifications.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, October 13, 1928*