

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

**HUNGER FIGHTERS**—Paul de Kruif—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3). Some of the more important adventures in plant industry, animal husbandry and vitamin research are told here in the style that made "Microbe Hunters" a competitor with the best sellers in fiction. De Kruif is certainly a great poster artist, with his big, bold, splashing adjectives. Some of the more meticulous critics don't like it; say it's "jazz," and not always accurate; but the main lines are in the right place; and the people certainly read it. The present work differs from "Microbe Hunters" in that it is current, or nearly current, history; most of the men he talks about are still living, some of them are not even middle-aged. So swiftly have events moved, indeed, that his section on vitamin research (Hidden Hunger, he calls it) is already in need of revision and bringing up to date.

*History of Science*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**NATURE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION REVIEW**—Published by Arthur Newton Pack—(Quarterly: \$1 a year). Nature study is finding its way into the curriculum of even the smallest schools, and problems of course content and teaching method are assuming considerable importance. This new venture in the professional magazine field, therefore, meets a real and as yet unsupplied need. It is to be hoped that those whom it is designed to serve will help it to succeed.

*Nature Study*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**THE NEW RUSSIA**—Dorothy Thompson—*Holt* (\$3). Miss Thompson presents a series of hard-finished photograph-like pictures of economics, politics, education as they exist in the U. S. S. R. Her views appear to be impartial, and are not encouraging. As for the ordinary amenities of existence: "The whole world stank of dishcloths."

*Sociology—History*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**OUTLINE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE HISTORY OF LIFE**—W. D. Matthew—*University of California Press* (75c). Although published as a syllabus of the lectures in a university course, this small book is very well fitted for the reading of any one who wants to get in brief form the story of life on this planet.

*Paleontology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**CHEMISTRY IN MEDICINE**—By various authors—*Chemical Foundation* (\$2). Here is a book that has long been needed and has never before been available. A single volume of 780 pages and small enough to be carried about in the pocket without spoiling the set of a coat, containing a resumé of recent researches in therapeutic chemistry by 43 foremost authorities. Here you can get in compact form Abel on the suprarenal glands, McCleod on insulin, Stieglitz on fundamental problems, McCollum on vitamins, Kendall on thyroxine, Collip on parathyroid glands, Goldberger on pellagra, Hess on scurvy, Luckhardt on anesthesia, Stockard on sex glands, Voegtlin on chemotherapy, and the rest equally important. All handy for reference and most of them easily readable by the layman.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY**—Emil Raymond Riegel—*Chemical Catalog* (\$9). A much needed book and admirably done. There is no field in which it is harder to get reliable and up-to-date information than in industrial chemistry, and this volume gives just what the average man wants, a succinct account of products and processes, prepared with the collaboration of experts, and giving references to special papers and treatises. A useful book for business men as well as libraries and schools. The chief topics treated are acids, alkalis, cement, pottery, fuels, fertilizers, coal products, glass, electrothermal products, cellulose, dyes, perfumes, explosives, rubber and metals.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**FORESTS AND WATER IN THE LIGHT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION**—Raphael Zon—*Government Printing Office* (20c). With flood control certain to continue in its present prominent place in public discussion, engineers, foresters, public men and all interested citizens will find this pamphlet by one of America's best-known forest scientists very useful.

*Forestry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**THE CHEVALIER BAYARD**—Samuel Shellabarger—*Century* (\$4). A close look at the last of the armored knights.

*History*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**A HISTORY OF MATHEMATICAL NOTATIONS; VOL. I**—Florian Cajori—*Open Court* (\$4). When we make our daily use of our relatively simple system of numerals, we are apt to forget the more complicated and cumbersome methods used in past ages. In this substantial volume Prof. Cajori gives a complete and scholarly account of the development of the notations of elementary mathematics from the Babylonians on. The second volume, to appear later, will treat of notations in higher mathematics.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**MATHEMATICAL TABLES**—*Chemical Rubber Co.* (75c). A reprint of the section on mathematical tables in the publishers' invaluable "Handbook of Chemistry and Physics," giving in a small pocket form five-place tables of logarithms, logarithmic and natural functions, hyperbolic functions, exponentials, etc.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**ALGEBRA FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS**—Stephen Emery and Eva E. Jeffs—*Van Nostrand* (\$1.85). A new elementary algebra, consisting chiefly of problems, interspersed with brief explanations.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**IRISES**—F. F. Rockwell—*Macmillan* (\$1). This very worthy addition to the Home Garden Handbooks series discusses the botany, culture and decorative values of what some one has most aptly called "the poor man's orchids".

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**THE PHYSICS OF CRYSTALS**—Abram F. Joffé—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). Here are presented in book form the lectures given by this famous Russian scientist while visiting the University of California. It is a full discussion of crystals from the physical viewpoint.

*Crystallography*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

**SCIENCE FOR YOU**—J. G. Crowther—*Brentano's* (\$2.50). A well-written little book, prepared in England, on a number of scientific subjects. Meteorology, astronomy, mining, physics, ultra-sonics, cathode rays and X-rays are among the things treated. A few illustrations, however, would have made many of the subjects even clearer.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

## First Glances At New Books—Continued

AN ALPHABET OF AVIATION—Paul Jones—*Macrae-Smith* (\$2). A glossary of the now common terms used to describe aviation, defined for the layman. The numerous diagrams assist the already clear accounts, but perhaps the chief feature of the book, and certainly the most attractive, is the series of colored, poster-like illustrations by Edward Shenton that adorn the alternate pages.

*Aviation*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

PRACTICAL FLYING — Byron Q. Jones—*Ronald* (\$3). Major Jones, as an experienced teacher of flying, here puts his experience where all can consult it, and answers such common questions of the prospective amateur aviator as "Can I learn to fly?" "What makes a plane fly?" "Why does an airplane maintain its balance?"

*Aviation*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

BEGINNING TO FLY—Merrill Hamburg—*Houghton Mifflin* (\$2.50). Tells all about how to make model airplanes, and also gives a brief account of the history of aviation. Any teacher with a flock of air-conscious young tinkerers in his classes needs this book.

*Aviation*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

SAILING CRAFT—Edwin J. Schoettel—*Macmillan* (\$12). An extremely interesting book, not only to amateur sailors, but to the landlubber as well, as the introduction by A. Edward Newton, who boasts of never having "rowed a boat, much less sailed a yacht" in his life, will testify. The author states that the title has a double meaning—the word "sailing" is both an adjective and a verb. In almost 800 pages are contained full descriptions of all types of pleasure sailing craft, and discussions of their use. A chapter by Edward P. Warner, now assistant secretary of the Navy for aviation, and Shatswell Ober, on "The Aerodynamics of Yacht Sails" furnishes the scientific aspect. But what is incomprehensible is why publishers of the experience of Macmillan should issue a book as copious as this without an index!

*Naval Architecture*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

PARK RECREATION AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES—Bull. U. S. Bur. Labor Statistics No. 462—*Govt. Printing Office* (25c). A statistical survey of city parks.

*Sociology*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

REVISION OF ROWLAND'S PRELIMINARY TABLE OF SOLAR SPECTRUM WAVE-LENGTHS—Charles E. St. John and others — *Carnegie Institution* (\$2.75). For the past generation, Prof. Rowland's table has been the world standard, and as such has been most satisfactory. But the development of interferometric methods of wave-length measurements has now permitted a much higher degree of precision than Rowland had at his disposal. This book represents the fruits of labors of Dr. St. John and his associates for more than a decade, and extends the original table to the present limit of the infra-red. It will be welcomed by physicists and astronomers the world over.

*Astrophysics*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

SAN LUIS CATALOG—Dudley Observatory — *Carnegie Institution* (\$3.25). This book is a good demonstration that all the astronomer's work is not looking through a telescope. The observations on which it was based were made at San Luis, Argentine, between 1909 and 1911, yet the catalog is just out. It includes the positions of 15,333 stars, mostly in the southern hemisphere. It "constitutes one of the steps in a general program formulated by Lewis Boss, with the object of producing the positions and motions of all stars brighter than magnitude 7.0."

*Astronomy*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

KANT'S INAUGURAL DISSERTATION AND EARLY WRITINGS ON SPACE—John Handyside, Translator—*Open Court* (\$2). A new translation of the inaugural dissertation of the great German philosopher and the first English translation of some of his early writings on space, containing, perhaps, some of the first inklings of what has since developed into the relativity theory.

*Philosophy*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

THE STORY OF ENGINEERING IN AMERICA—Chelsea Fraser—*Crowell* (\$2.50). All about the achievements of the profession whose most distinguished representative has just been elected to the Presidential chair. The author tells, in a style interesting to young and old, how railroads, bridges, tunnels, lighthouses, mines and other works of the engineer have transformed America from a wilderness into the great nation that it is today.

*Engineering*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

OUR WONDERFUL UNIVERSE—Clarence Augustus Chant—*Ryerson Press* (*Toronto*) (\$1.50). This little book, by the professor of astronomy at the University of Toronto, is the latest of the popular books on astronomy, and is also one of the best. Though simply written, in order to be comprehensible even to children, the author does not "talk down" to his readers, and the book will be of interest to adults as well. The illustrations are particularly well selected, including a number that do not ordinarily appear in such a book, but which add to its interest.

*Astronomy*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

ROMANCE OF THE MOON — Mary Proctor—*Harper* (\$2.50). This is the third in Miss Proctor's interesting series of astronomical romances, the first two having been of the sun and of comets. In style it is very similar to the other two, including both ancient ideas and mythology, and modern scientific research. One of the most interesting parts has to do with the ideas of Prof. Goddard of Clark University on the possibility of sending a rocket to the moon.

*Astronomy*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

ORIENTAL AND OCCIDENTAL CULTURE—Maurice Parmelee—*Century* (\$4). A general summing up and analysis of the most significant differences between East and West, such as social organization, failure of the Orient to develop science, the part played by religion in the oriental countries, and the effects of western influence on politics and education in the east. The author's travels through China, India, Japan, and smaller countries of the East, and his meetings with noted and well informed people there provide many incidents to emphasize and clarify the points made in the discussion.

*Sociology*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*

WEATHER—E. E. Free and Travis Hoke—*McBride* (\$3). A new book on meteorology, planned, say the authors in their preface, "not logically but psychologically. All the authors' acquaintances . . . were asked what they most felt need of knowing about the weather. . . . So far as possible the queries are answered here."

*Meteorology*

*Science News-Letter, November 17, 1928*