

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING—Albert G. Ingalls and others—*Scientific American* (\$3). A few years ago the *Scientific American* published a series of articles on how the amateur could make reflecting telescopes, later issuing a little book on the subject. The rapid depletion of this edition, and the springing up of hundreds of amateur-built telescopes, are evidence that Mr. Ingalls has really launched a new hobby in this country. In this second edition the book has grown from 102 to 285 pages. Besides the elementary description of simple methods that made the first edition so popular, there are now a number of somewhat more advanced items, such as a description of the spectroheliometer by Dr. George Ellery Hale, and an account of grinding machines. If you are already interested in telescope making you need this book to learn the latest wrinkles; if not, you should obtain it anyhow, and get started in this interesting work.

Astronomy—Optics
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

A GRAPHICAL METHOD OF PLOTTING OBLIQUE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS—Department of the Interior of Canada—F. A. Acland (*Ottawa*) (25c). A full description of the methods used by the Surveys Bureau of the Canadian Department of the Interior for mapping areas from aerial photographs. The method involves a series of glass grids on which are ruled radiating lines corresponding to parallel lines on the surface. These are checked by the actual measurements between two control points.

Aviation—Geodesy
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

COPRA AND COCONUT OIL—Katherine Snodgrass—*Food Research Institution, Stanford University*. This is the second in the institute's "Fats and Oils Series," and summarizes the chief facts about these important products.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

ELEMENTARY ORGANIC CHEMISTRY—Homer Adkins and S. M. McElvain—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2.25). A small, but adequate, textbook intended for a short course in organic chemistry involving fifty classroom periods.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN PHYSICS—F. K. Richtmyer—*McGraw-Hill* (\$5). Though there have been plenty of books in recent years on such phases of modern physics as the relativity theory, the quantum theory, the Schrödinger wave mechanics, etc., so far there has not been any really adequate view of modern physics as a whole, with all these parts fitted into their proper places. Now Professor Richtmyer has produced such a book. It is a book for anyone who wants to know the meaning of these newer ideas and their relation to the history of physics. Naturally, no book dealing with such subjects can dispense entirely with higher mathematics, but the author has made it as simple as possible. Anyone with a working knowledge of calculus can comprehend it without difficulty.

Physics
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF ELECTRICITY—Charles R. Gibson—*Lippincott* (\$5). An interestingly written book that covers somewhat more ground than its title indicates, dealing as it does with modern atomic structure, crystal analysis, relativity, spectroscopy, etc. Except for a curious confusion of Coolidge's cathode ray tube with his X-ray tube, it is quite accurate.

Physics
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

DIESEL ENGINE DESIGN—H. F. P. Purday—*Van Nostrand*. The development in recent years of the Diesel engine, with its application in high-powered marine units, the use of supercharging and the following of the example of gasoline engine design and successfully using it where light weight and high speed are required, have necessitated a new book on the subject. Hence this third edition of an already standard work, covering all these, and other important considerations.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

PRACTICAL AUTOMOTIVE LACQUERING—William J. Miskella—*Finishing Research Labs. (Chicago)* (\$3.50). All about modern methods of lacquering automobiles, with full instructions, not only for small jobs, but for laying out large shops as well. The second volume in the publishers' "Practical Finishing Series."

Automotive Engineering
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

OUR PREHISTORIC ANCESTORS—Herdman F. Cleland—*Coward-McCann* (\$5). The author of a standard text on geology has brought out an equally thoroughgoing text on early man. Various types of evidence that reveal the progress of man from the Old Stone Age down through the Age of Iron are discussed, and the early ways of living are reconstructed. Profuse illustrations depicting tools, weapons, decorative art, and monuments, as well as many charts and tables, are an outstanding feature.

Anthropology—Archæology
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

ANTHROPOLOGY AND MODERN LIFE—Franz Boas—*Norton* (\$3). A distinguished anthropologist sets out to explain his science in everyday language, and particularly to show that understanding of the principles of anthropology illuminates the social processes of our own times and may show us what to do and what to avoid.

Anthropology
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

RACE AND CIVILIZATION—Friedrich Hertz—*Macmillan* (\$7.50). A book close-packed with carefully annotated references to authorities; de-bunked as far as human nature permits. The author is especially rough on the Noble Nordic. His merciless objectivity spares not even his own much-advertised Teutonic race.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM AND THE CHILD—*Field Museum of Natural History*—The ways in which one great museum reaches the children of its city are outlined in this pamphlet.

General Science
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

THE TRUTH ABOUT MIND CURE—William S. Sadler—*McClurg* (\$2). That fear is responsible for much illness of mind and body is a fact gaining wider recognition. How one doctor prescribes faith as a mental medicine for such cases, and the principles of the treatment, are set forth in this small and interesting volume.

Medicine—Psychiatry
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

SOUTHERN COOKING—Mrs. S. R. Henrietta Stanley Dull—*Ruralist Press* (\$3.50). The art of Southern cooking is reduced to a science in recipes that have been tested and revised by an expert.

Home Economics
Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

First Glances at New Books—Continued

TEXAS WILD FLOWERS—Ellen D. Schulz—*Laidlaw* (\$3). A compactly gotten-up book of regional botany—there should be a great deal more of this kind of work done. The author would do well, in a subsequent edition, to pay a little more attention to the quality of the photographs used for illustrations.

Botany

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

A KEY TO THE SPECIES OF EUCLYPTUS GROWN IN CALIFORNIA—Eric Walther—*California Academy of Sciences*. A pamphlet of interest to systematic botanists. Considering the confused state of this genus, and the difficulty non-Californians have in telling one Eucalyptus from another, the botanical profession should rise up and call the author blessed.

Botany

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

REPORT OF THE HARVARD BOTANICAL GARDENS, SOLEDAD ESTATE, CIENFUEGOS, CUBA (ATKINS FOUNDATION) 1900-1926—*Harvard Press* (\$1.25). A summary of a quarter-century of work in an important tropical botanic garden.

Botany

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE WOODS OF THE WORLD—G. P. Ahern and Helen K. Newton—*American Society of Mechanical Engineers* (\$1.50). Forest Service men, wood technicians and, above all, long-suffering librarians of scientific collections will be glad to see this. It looks like a really complete job.

Forestry

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

TERTIARY AND PLEISTOCENE MOLLUSCA FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, and LANDSHELLS OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS—*California Academy of Sciences*. Of interest to conchologists and paleontologists. Published as part of the proceedings of the Academy.

Paleontology

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

MAN'S BEST FRIEND: THE STORY OF THE DOG—A. H. Trapman—*Macaulay* (\$5.). This book contains a great mass of interesting anecdotal material about dogs and is excellently illustrated; but the author's great affection for his subjects prevents anything like critical objectivity in dealing with the vexed question of animal mind.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

THE CUTHBERT SELF-GUIDE—Estella Yerex Cuthbert—*Musson (Toronto)* (\$2). A handy little guide with several convenient features, such as perforated pages containing instructions for sight-seeing routes, in the proper language, intended to be torn out and handed to the driver. Naturally, most space is given to England; none is given to Germany. The illustrations would have been better if the cuts had been made from original photographs, and not from other half-tones.

Travel

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

YOU AND THE LAW—S. Boyd Darling—*Appleton* (\$2.50). The most likely points of contact between the average citizen and the law of the land, presented tersely in the form of a catechism.

Law

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

WHAT PHILOSOPHY IS—H. A. Larabee—*Macy Masius* (\$2). A short but surprisingly comprehensive survey of the various tendencies in philosophy throughout its history, supplemented with valuable reading hints and a chronological table.

Philosophy

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

THE CRUISE OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT—Mrs. John Borden—*Macmillan* (\$4.50). Up through Bering Sea to Wrangel Island, and what kinds of folk and beasts were met with on the way. Real geography at first hand.

Geography

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

THIS PUZZLING PLANET—E. T. Brewster—*Bobbs Merrill* (\$4). A popular account of geology, entertainingly written and very well illustrated; somewhat too sure in spots, however, and occasionally gets "jazzy".

Geology

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

ANTHRACITE CULM AND SILT—J. D. Sisler, T. Fraser and D. C. Ashmead—*Bureau of Publications, Harrisburg, Pa.* (50c). An exhaustive report on the problems presented by, and the present disposal of, the two chief wastes in anthracite mining.

Mining

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

DIESEL ENGINE RUNNING AND MAINTENANCE—Philip H. Smith—*Constable* (3/6). A practical manual telling all about Diesel engines and how to operate them.

Engineering

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

COLLOID SYMPOSIUM MONOGRAPH; VOL. VI—Harry Boyer Weiser, Editor—*Chemical Catalog* (\$6.50). Here are collected in permanent form the papers presented at the Sixth Colloid Symposium, held at Toronto last June. The first paper is by Sir W. B. Hardy, its guest of honor, on "Living Matter," while the other 24 chapters deal with specific problems of colloid chemistry.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

MINERALOGY—Edward Henry Kraus and Walter Fred Hunt—*McGraw-Hill* (\$5). The second edition of an excellent text on minerals and crystals, with considerable revision to bring it fully up to date.

Mineralogy

Science News-Letter, November 24, 1928

Christmas Cards

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