

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

ODDITIES: A BOOK OF UNEXPLAINED FACTS—Rupert T. Gould—*Stokes* (\$4). How did Orffyreus keep his wheel revolving for 54 days in a sealed room? What was it that repeatedly moved the coffins in the Chase vault at Barbados? What sort of a natural (or supernatural) creature was it that made the "devil's hoof marks" in Devonshire? What was the origin of Andrew Crosse's acari, that apparently developed electrically in an acid solution? Or, for that matter, do the Aurora Islands exist and, if so, where? These are some of the questions propounded by Lieutenant Commander Gould (R. N., retired) in this most interesting book. He does not offer any explanation of them; he merely states the facts and suggested explanations as shown by his own seemingly exhaustive researches. The reader can accept whatever explanation seems best, and on this account the book gains its chief charm. The author's frequent and genial digressions and his delightful footnotes all aid in making this one of the most fascinating books that has recently appeared.

General Science
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

WHY WE MISBEHAVE—Samuel D. Schmalhausen—*Macaulay* (\$3). "Civilization, we now for the first time clearly perceive, is a state of psychopathology," writes this author. Psychiatry must come to the rescue. His discussions deal in psychoanalytic vein with maladjustments and readjustments. The point of view can be indicated by the fact that the book is dedicated to "Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Carl Jung, three philosophic physicians who created the New Medicine, the New Psychology, and the New Education."

Psychiatry—Sociology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

EMOTION AND DELINQUENCY—L. Grimberg—*Brentano's* (\$3). A clinical study of five hundred delinquents who were brought to the neuro-psychiatrist as medical problems. The author's view is that the psychopathological condition of such cases is due to organic inferiority, specifically a defective endocrine system. His analysis of causes of delinquency and outlining of individual cases from the doctor's point of view makes this book different from most works on the subject.

Psychiatry—Sociology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

THE HISTORY OF BIOLOGY—Erik Nordenskiöld (tr. by L. B. Eyre)—*Knopf* (\$6). In this book, a really serious effort is made to give not only the biographical outline but a critical evaluation of the work of each of the leading contributors to the growth of biological science. Prof. Nordenskiöld's book, therefore, stands in a class by itself when compared with the semi-popular publications which have hitherto had most of the field to themselves. It belongs on the shelves of the really serious student of biology.

Biology—History of Science
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

A BIRD BOOK FOR SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN—Dorothy L. Norman—*Juta and Co., Capetown* (5s. 6d.). Curious and beautiful birds we seldom hear about and never see, written up in a style that makes us wish that Miss Norman would come up to this side of the world and do a few books like it for the English-speaking children of the North.

Ornithology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

BIOLOGY OF THE VERTEBRATES—H. E. Walter—*Macmillan* (\$5). This is a textbook for college students, well done in the modern manner, with chief emphasis on physiology and evolution (it should sell well in Arkansas, though not through official channels)—not too professorial in tone, and illustrated, most sensibly, chiefly with line drawings.

Biology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

A GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF FRESH-WATER BIOLOGY—J. G. Needham and P. R. Needham—*American Viewpoint Society* (\$1). A hand-size pamphlet of systematic keys to the genera of fresh-water plants and animals, especially arthropods and algæ, illustrated with clear-cut line drawings.

Biology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

A BRIEF COURSE IN BIOLOGY—W. H. Wellhouse and G. O. Hendrickson—*Macmillan*. A general biology text for college students, based on experience in handling the courses at Iowa State College. The material of the standard college course in biology is presented in much more compact form than is customary.

Biology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

FOOTPRINTS OF EARLY MAN—Donald A. Mackenzie—*Blackie* (5s). Discoveries of prehistoric man in Europe and the east are discussed in this book very clearly, so that the reader who wants to learn rather than be amused will get a reasonably comprehensive view of the human family tree on that side of the world. Early Americans, while equally prehistoric with the Sumerians or with Britons of the New Stone Age, get no notice except for a page or two devoted to the discoveries that indicate antiquity of man in America. These the author describes as though unquestionably ancient, though the subject is still controversial in this country. Glözel is given considerable space and is finally pronounced "mysterious".

Anthropology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

THE SEARCH FOR ATLANTIS—Edwin Bjorkman—*Knopf* (\$2). New speculations as to the identity of the lost Atlantis. By a process of triangulation, this theory would establish the island of Scheria in the Odyssey, the farthest inhabited region to which Odysseus journeyed, as the same place as Tarshish, remote merchant city frequently mentioned in the Bible, and would prove this to be Atlantis. The overlapping of details regarding these three places is the basis of the theory.

Geography—Archæology
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

A CHILD'S STORY OF CIVILIZATION—Stephen King-Hall—*Morrow* (\$3). A laudable attempt to present to the child a panorama of prehistory and history down to modern times, and to give some idea of the significance back of the events. For children of ten years or thereabouts, the author suggests that a "Helper", a sort of unofficial tutor, will be necessary to discuss the great ages of history with the child and to answer questions and devise games. The child's point of view is never lost sight of by this author who wrote the chapters originally for his young daughter.

History
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928

HOW THE WORLD IS FED—F. G. Carpenter—*American Book Company* (96c). A very worthy addition to the well-known Carpenter series widely used in schools.

Economic Geography
Science News-Letter, December 1, 1928