

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

MAN THE MIRACLE MAKER—Hen-drik Van Loon—*Liveright* (\$3.50). A distinguished astronomer recently said, "The main difference between a scientific publication and one of literature is that in the former one must be accurate." Using this criterion, this certainly ranks as literature. Evidently the author recognizes this himself, for he says in the second chapter: "If you happen to be a thoroughgoing classification fan, you will discover a great many things in this book which will irritate you most terribly and you had better exchange it for a handbook of botany or a couple of time-tables." Though the subtitle is "The Story of Inventions," don't read it with the expectation of finding a scientific and accurate history of human inventions. But if you want a delightful and interesting story, written in jazzy and frequently inaccurate language (that is, in typical Van Loonian style), and that, in its broad outlines, gives a very fair picture of how man has made himself the lord of the earth, then by all means get this book, and you will be sure of at least a few pleasant evenings.

Invention

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

INDUSTRIAL EXPLORERS—Maurice Holland and Henry F. Pringle—*Harpers* (\$3). The great revolution of modern industry that research is accomplishing has leaders as colorful as the generals of ancient wars and much more useful. The factual romance contains their romantic stories.

General Science

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

FEVER, HEAT REGULATION, CLIMATE, AND THE THYROID-ADRENAL APPARATUS—W. Cramer—*Longmans, Green and Co.* (\$6). The book is not primarily intended for the lay reader, but the remarkably clear and interesting style in which it is written recommends it to anyone with even an elementary knowledge of anatomy and chemistry. The subject is an important medical problem which has long been unsolved. The author presents his theories and the results of fifteen years of experimental investigation. To the non-medical reader the discussion of the effects of climate will be most interesting.

Medicine

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

FARM PRODUCTS IN INDUSTRY—George M. Rommel—*Henkle* (\$3.50). This is the "first book ever printed on cornstalk paper." But it is much more. Agriculture must soon join the growing group of "new industries," founded on scientific research and faced industrially. This book tells how agriculture will emerge from the feed bin into the factory.

Agriculture

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

SOUTH AFRICA'S PAST IN STONE AND PAINT—M. C. Burkitt—*Cambridge Univ. Press* (\$5). Results of a 6,000 mile archaeological tour made by a well known authority on pre-historic men. Prof. Burkitt's account pays special attention to the stone tools and Bushman paintings, which have been discovered in quantity over wide areas, and hence are most instructive clues to South Africa's pre-history. Of skeletal remains, he has less to say, on the grounds that not enough material has yet come to light to warrant conclusions. The author's report that the country is a "gigantic, wonderfully stocked museum of the past" will undoubtedly serve as an added stimulus to interest in South African research.

Archæology—Anthropology

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

SLAVES OF THE SUN—Ferdinand Ossendowski—*Dutton* (\$3.75). A traveler's report that has literary personality. The author uses both the story teller's technique and the philosopher's method of speculation effectively to convey to the reader the emotions and thoughts of the African native and the influence that the white man is having in Africa. The subtitle of the book: "The Account of a Journey Through the Western Part of Tropical Africa in 1926" enlightens the prospective reader as to the subject matter, but conveys no suggestion of the depth and breadth of this thought-provoking volume.

Ethnography

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

THE BASIS OF BREEDING—Leon F. Whitney—*Fowler*. For anyone who has wondered about heredity, either his own or that of the rest of the animals of the world, this non-technical book will provide much thinking matter. The author is secretary of the American Eugenics Society and has made a hobby of breeding dogs.

Biology

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

MAP OF ANTARCTIC—*American Geographical Society (New York)* (\$10). Useful for following the airplane flights of Wilkins and Byrd south of the Antarctic Circle is this five foot square, two-color map compiled from original sources and just issued. With the four sheets, into which the map is divided for convenience, there comes an exact duplicate of the navigational chart being carried in the airplanes of the Byrd and Wilkins expeditions. It will vitalize current geography for schools.

Geography

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

AEOLUS—Oliver Stewart—*Dutton* (\$1). Moving-wing aircraft of the autogyro type will conquer short distance aerial transport, gigantic fixed-wing hydroplanes will ply the sea routes and airships will never succeed. This is the future of the flying machine as written by a British pen.

Aeronautics

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

EUGENICS—A new monthly magazine—*American Eugenics Society* (\$2 yearly). This journal of race betterment will distribute the facts and theories of heredity and inheritance to that increasing number of quality conscious individuals who are concerned with the future of humanity.

Eugenics

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

JOURNAL OF JUVENILE RESEARCH—*California Bureau of Juvenile Research, Whittier, Cal.* (\$1.25 a year, 40 cents a copy). A new journal, which will report scientific advances in understanding of children's problems, psychological and sociological. Dr. Norman Fenton is the editor, and the journal is to be published quarterly. The first issue starts off the journal in promising style, presenting results of investigations of interest among the feeble-minded and among juvenile delinquents.

Psychology—Sociology

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA—Edwin O. Jordan—*American Medical Association* (\$5). Professor Jordan has made a very thorough survey of the literature on the influenza epidemic of 1918. The book will be extremely valuable to public health workers and epidemiologists now and probably to historians of the future. A copious bibliography and many charts, tables and diagrams add to the usefulness of the book.

Epidemiology

Science News-Letter, December 29, 1928