

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

A SOURCE BOOK IN ASTRONOMY—Harlow Shapley and Helen E. Howarth—*McGraw-Hill* (\$4). Too often the modern scientist is apt to forget or ignore the work of the pioneers in his field, even though it is on their foundation that his own work rests. In many cases the rarity or unfamiliar language of the original work is responsible for this, and so the American Philosophical Association, the other scientific societies that aided the project, and the publishers deserve the highest praise for the series of "Source Books in the History of the Sciences" that is inaugurated with this volume. Dr. Shapley and Miss Howarth have made a splendid selection of more than sixty quotations from works that are of importance in the history of astronomy. Most appropriately, the first is from Copernicus' "De Revolutionibus", telling of the motion of the earth around the sun. Tycho Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Bayer, Huyghens, Horrox, Cassini, Newton, and others are here, down to the recent past with such names as Keeler, E. C. Pickering, Chandler, Lowell and Lockyer. Truly, it is a book that should find a place in any scientific library with the slightest pretense of completeness, and the forthcoming volumes in the series will be eagerly awaited.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

ELEMENTARY MECHANICS—Joseph B. Reynolds—*Prentice-Hall* (\$2.50). This text-book of mechanics is intended for a beginning course in mechanics in technical schools, and does not require the use of mathematics higher than algebra, plane trigonometry and solid geometry.

*Mechanics*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

ELEMENTS OF GEOPHYSICS—Richard Ambronn, translated by Margaret C. Cobb—*McGraw-Hill* (\$5). Since we live on the earth, the study of its physical behavior is especially important, but the science of geophysics has even more immediate practical value, for by the use of magnetism, earthquake waves, radio, and other geophysical methods, the prospector is often enabled to locate hidden ore deposits as accurately as ever claimed by any "douser" with his divining rod. This book is a complete summary of these methods.

*Geophysics*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

JOHN WESLEY AMONG THE SCIENTISTS—Frank W. Collier—*Abingdon* (\$2.00). In his "Wesley Among the Scientists," Professor Collier has done a service to both religion and science, since he has done a service to historic truth and personal justice. His citations from the little known but extensive writings of Wesley in scientific fields prove that the founder of Methodism was well abreast of the science of his day. He showed greater interest in the study of science in its various branches than is common among the preachers of our time, and he showed greater appreciation of its cultural and religious value than is common among scientists. In both respects, Wesley sets an example that should be more widely followed.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

THE DISCOVERER—André de Hevesy, translated by Robert Coates—*Macaulay* (\$3). A new biography of Christopher Columbus, written with reference to contemporary documents, where they were available, bringing out the true humanity of an almost mythical figure.

*Biography*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

HIPPOCRATES—Eng. transl. by E. T. Withington—*Putnam's* (\$2.50). This is the third volume which contains the surgical discussions. The book gives the original Greek text on one page and Dr. Withington's English translation on the opposite page. It will appeal to students of medical history.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

RECENT ADVANCES IN ANATOMY—H. Woollard—*Blakiston's* (\$3.50). This book presents "the problems in which anatomists are engaged." It is also limited to researches which depend on the study of living material. This is a volume for the anatomist, physician and medical student.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

THE HARVEY LECTURES, 1926-1927—*Williams and Wilkins* (\$4). The book is a collection of seven lectures on advances in medicine, given by international authorities under the auspices of the Harvey Society of New York. The subjects and their presentation are too technical for the general reader. The problems discussed are from the fields of physiology, bacteriology, public health and chemistry.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

INORGANIC CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY—W. L. Badgers and E. M. Baker—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2.50). A concise work on the technology of the heavy chemical industries, written chiefly from the standpoint of the engineer rather than the industrial chemist. Intended primarily as a text-book, it deals with American methods and practice, and includes much material not available in any hand-books. On that account, it will be of interest to the practicing chemical engineer as well.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

COLLOID CHEMISTRY, THEORETICAL AND APPLIED. VOL. II. BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE—Collected and edited by Jerome Alexander—*Chemical Catalog Co.*—(\$15.50). Fifty-seven chapters cover all the applications of colloid chemistry to biology and medicine, including two on artefacts, four on proteins, five or inorganic ferments and enzymes, six on protoplasm and cell structure, four on microorganisms, one on fertilization, two on plants, and the rest on medical topics, with special papers on several diseases and on pharmacology. The papers show the close interrelation of the various branches of biological science and indicate that colloid phenomena, while not the sole factors in life, nevertheless enter to a greater or less extent into every one of its manifestations.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

AN INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND THE RELATED CHEMICAL PRINCIPLES—D. P. Smith and H. K. Miller—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2.25). A text-book of qualitative analysis that aims also to introduce the student to the more important principles and current theories which the analytical reactions are supposed to illustrate and to give the beginner that familiarity with inorganic substances and their behavior that is necessary for further progress in the science.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHEMICAL AND DRUG INDUSTRIES—William Haynes—*Haynes* (\$6). A very useful biographical index, the usefulness of which is enhanced by a geographical index, in which all the names are listed under the places.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

## First Glances at New Books—Continued

THE PLATYPUS—Harry Burrell—*Angus and Robertson, Sydney* (25s). This paradoxical monotreme of the Antipodes has long been the stock marvel of naturalists and the delight of the makers of frivolous verses. But to date a really comprehensive account of its anatomy, physiology and life history has been lacking. Zoologists the world over will therefore be grateful to the Australian author, who has added to a succinct review of previous literature an account of extensive original studies of his own, illustrated with quantities of really remarkable photographs.

Zoology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

ON THE BARRIER REEF—S. Elliott Napier—*Angus and Robertson, Sydney* (10s 6d). One of the things which Australia holds in common with the United States, especially California, is a great dower of natural superlatives. Both are lands that frequently end in *-est*. In the Great Barrier Reef our cousins "down under" have the greatest outdoor aquarium and marine aviary in the world, which, unfortunately for the world, is little visited. The author, who signs himself a "no-ologist", places us in his debt for a breezy, readable, informative account of the birds, beasts and fishes of this fascinating region.

Natural History  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO THE AMERICAS—Edited by V. E. Shelford—*Williams and Wilkins* (\$10). No botanist or zoologist stays at home all the time nowadays. He travels, even if only vicariously, and the materials he uses in his laboratory travel to him. The Naturalist's Guide is of use in giving him an idea of regions which he will visit, or in supplying an ecological background for specimens which he receives. The descriptions of the hundreds of regions treated are all necessarily brief; but the fact that they are all in one book and all first-hand is what gives this work its unique character.

Natural History  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

A DISTRIBUTIONAL SUMMATION OF THE ORNITHOLOGY OF LOWER CALIFORNIA—Joseph Grinnell—*University of California Press* (\$3.75). An ecological systematic study of the resident and migratory birds of an important but as yet relatively little-known region.

Ornithology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

FLOWERS OF COAST AND SIERRA—Edith S. Clements—*Wilson* (\$3). There is no key nor any pretence at technical treatment in this book—just a succession of very readable sections on the wild flowers of the Pacific Coast, generously illustrated with 32 color plates in the style which Mrs. Clements has made familiar.

Botany  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

NEW ESSENTIALS OF BIOLOGY—G. W. Hunter—*Amer. Book Co.* (\$1.68). A new printing of a successful elementary text by a well-known author.

Biology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

REALITIES OF BIRD LIFE—Edmund Selous—*Constable* (14s). The field notes of an eminent naturalist, who watched keenly, recorded faithfully, and appreciated as one who is himself an integral part of the natural world.

Ornithology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

THE FUR TRADE OF CANADA—H. A. Innis—*Oxford Press, Canadian Branch* (\$2). A thorough-going study of the fur trade of one of the principal fur-producing countries of the world, going not only into the natural history but especially into the economics of the fur business. This book is indispensable to every one who has to do with fur or fur-bearing animals.

Mammalogy—Economics  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

MAN-SIZED MEALS FROM THE KITCHENETTE—Margaret Pratt Allen and Ida Oram Hutton—*Macy-Masius* (\$1.60). This book, claiming to be the only cook book of its kind, is designed for the young housekeeper in a kitchenette apartment. It is practical and should be decidedly helpful. Omission of directions for washing or scraping or otherwise cleaning vegetables is surprising in a book containing so many other extremely elementary and obvious directions.

Home Economics  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

THE BUILDERS OF AMERICA—Ellsworth Huntington and Leon F. Whitney—*Morrow* (\$3.50). A student of heredity and a student of environment consider the future of the country. The effect on political, social and economic life and progress of the country as it is influenced by the differing birth rates of various types and classes is discussed.

Eugenics—Economics—Sociology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

FOUNDERS OF THE MIDDLE AGES—E. K. Rand—*Harvard University Press* (\$4). Although designed to illuminate primarily the evolution of philosophy and general culture between the Fathers and the Schoolmen, this book will be of much interest to the student for its incidental bearing on the development of science during this hitherto ill-lighted period. The book is written in an easy and friendly style that at once conjures away the feeling of heaviness usually associated with treatises on mediaeval culture.

History  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

UNDERSTANDING SPAIN—Clayton Sedgwick Cooper—*Stokes* (\$2.50). To understand a country one must study her people. The author of this book explains the process by which Spain is becoming modernized and describes the underlying features of Spanish character which have retarded the country's progress along the paths of her European neighbors. The book should be helpful to the traveler and to the business man as well.

Ethnology—Economics  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

MANUAL OF FURNITURE ARTS AND CRAFTS—A. P. Johnson and Marta K. Sironen—*A. P. Johnson Co.* (\$5.50). This manual is crammed full of information useful to the homemaker, the interior decorator and the furniture craftsman. The authors do not claim for it the completeness of an encyclopedia, but they give a comprehensive exposition of the history of furniture, technical descriptions of periods and styles, furniture woods, upholstery, transportation, a biography, bibliographies and glossary. The text is well and profusely illustrated. Unfortunately the compact size which makes the book a handy reference manual made necessary the use of such small type that the book is not suitable for protracted reading. This detracts from the appeal which it would otherwise make to the amateur.

Technology  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*

IMPRESSIONS OF GREAT NATURALISTS—Henry Fairfield Osborn—*Scribner's* (\$2.50). A group of biographical sketches by one who has himself built a great reputation as a naturalist.

Biography  
*Science News-Letter, January 19, 1929*