

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

HYDRAULIC LABORATORY PRACTICE—Edited by John R. Freeman—*American Society of Mechanical Engineers* (\$10). This is the monumental foundation for experimental hydraulics. To the editor, who in 1924 visited the hydraulic laboratories of Europe, who has since repeatedly emphasized the great engineering and financial savings that will come from intelligent experimentation with models, who inspired and assured the publication of this volume, the public that will benefit from its content owes a great debt. By first building great river structures on a small scale, European engineers have placed their hydraulic engineering on an experimental instead of an empirical basis. They have set an example for America.

Hydraulics
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

SKYSCRAPERS AND THE MEN WHO BUILD THEM—W. A. Starrett—*Scribner's* (\$3.50). This much-needed book is not a technical treatise on building, but an interestingly written work for the general reader who sees skyscrapers going up all about him and wants to know the why and the wherefore of some of the procedure.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

THE RADIO MANUAL—George E. Sterling, edited by Robert S. Kruse—*Van Nostrand* (\$6). A good-sized book (of 654 pages) that discusses the general theory and practice of radio and answers specific questions on the installation, upkeep, operation and control of radio apparatus, both for transmission and reception. Broadcasting, marine radio, trans-oceanic communication and all other branches are included. Much of this specialized information is not available in any other book, so it is an invaluable reference work for anyone who is interested in radio.

Radio
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

A B C OF AVIATION—Victor W. Page—*Henley* (\$1). Though inexpensive, this is a very complete and concise account of aviation and its terminology, both with heavier and lighter-than-air craft. Unusually clear and numerous drawings and diagrams completely explain each point.

Aviation
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

CHEMICAL PUBLICATIONS: THEIR NATURE AND USE—Melvin Guy Mellon—*McGraw-Hill* (\$1.50). The chief purpose of this work is to introduce the chemical student to the technical journals of his field, to show him what is in them and how to make use of them to get out what he desires. In this it will fill a long-felt need and one that is still to be covered in other fields of science.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

CHEMICAL REACTIONS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC LATENT IMAGE: VOL. I—E. R. Bullock—*Van Nostrand* (\$2.50). Another volume in the series of monographs on the theory of photography, produced by the Eastman Research Laboratory under the editorship of Dr. C. E. K. Mees. It deals with silver-oxidizing baths, the chemical potential necessary for the destruction of the latent image, the silver germ theory and the silver sulfide germ theory, *inter alia*.

Photography—Chemistry
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

SOLUBLE SILICATES IN INDUSTRY—J. G. Vail—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$9.50). Silicates have come into very extensive industrial use for adhesives, sizes, glazes and a host of other things that call for colloids and gels. This condensation of the essential data of the chemistry and physics of these compounds into a single compact volume will be welcomed by chemists and technologists.

Industrial Chemistry
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

THE SUN—Charles G. Abbot—*Appleton* (\$3.50). For many years this book by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and one of America's leading astronomers, has been a classic in its field, but recently it has been limited in utility by the fact that it was not entirely up to date. In this revised edition he still covers the same ground, of the sun and its relation to the earth and the universe in general, and he has included extensive new material, much of it a result of his own researches.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

W. H. HUDSON: BIRD-MAN—Harold Goddard—*Dutton* (\$1). A chapter of appreciation, rather than a biography, of a charming and elusive personality.

Biography
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

WOODY PLANTS OF ALABAMA—R. H. Harper—*Geol. Survey of Alabama, University, Ala.* (free). A fully annotated list of the trees, shrubs and vines found in Alabama, with discussions of their local distribution and economic uses, well illustrated with half-tones of habit studies and with distribution maps. The author, who has devoted his life to the study of the botany of the Southeast, here makes a worthy addition to the growing literature of state floras available to the botanist and forester.

Botany
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

DEFORESTED AMERICA—G. P. Ahern—*Washington* (20c). A pamphlet crammed with disquieting facts about the rate at which lumberers are cutting off our remaining timber supply and the rate at which they are *not* taking steps to replace it.

Forestry
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY—V. I. Palladin; translated and edited by B. E. Livingston. Third Edition—*Blakiston* (\$4). In this new edition of Palladin, which has now become the standard and almost universally used plant physiology text in this country, Dr. Livingston has followed the practice he initiated in the second edition of bringing the book down to date by means of ample supplementary notes, without altering the original text.

Plant Physiology
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

EDUCATIONAL BIOLOGY—W. H. Atwood and E. D. Heiss—*Blakiston* (\$2.75). A textbook designed especially for the training of teachers. The type method is followed.

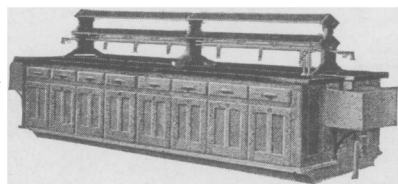
Biology
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

OUR VANISHING WILDFLOWERS—H. S. Salt—*Watts* (2s 6d). A discussion of the need for wildflower conservation, and especially for wildflower preserves, in Britain.

Botany
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

THE NATURALIST AT THE DINNER TABLE—E. G. Boulenger—*Duckworth* (6s). The director of the London Zoological Society's Aquarium indulges in some charming table-talk on the zoology of hors d'oeuvre, fish, joint, game, poultry, cheese. It makes one realize most strikingly how "around the earth each useful product flies."

Natural History
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929



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First Glances at New Books—Continued

WHAT IS LIFE?—Augusta Gaskell—*Thomas* (\$3.50). This book must be ticketed as philosophy rather than as biology, for its central thesis is frankly speculative. In addition to "material" atoms of the kind familiar to the physical scientist, the author's hypothesis envisages an entirely different category of "immaterial" entities composed of positively and negatively charged electrons in relations other than those obtaining in the groups we know as atoms. These "Z-system" units are assumed to have power to influence atoms, to capture and drag them along, though they do not enter into chemical combination with them. A material atom, or group of atoms, thus captive to a Z-system unit, is endowed with life. When the Z-system unit becomes separated from its material train, the latter becomes subject to autolytic processes and "dies". The Z-system unit would thus appear to be a species of entelechy, reduced to atomic or subatomic magnitude.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

THEORY OF PROBABILITY—William Burnside—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). A posthumous publication of the distinguished mathematician of Cambridge University. The obituary by Dr. A. R. Forsyth for the Royal Society is also included.

Mathematics
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

SOME MORE MEDICAL VIEWS ON BIRTH CONTROL—Edited by Norman Haire—*Dutton* (\$2.50). Eleven doctors give their opinions of birth control, chiefly from the medical rather than the sociological standpoint.

Medicine—Sociology
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

CONSECRATIO MEDICI AND OTHER PAPERS—Harvey Cushing—*Little, Brown & Co.* (\$2.50). The book is a collection of papers on medical subjects charmingly written and of sufficiently broad interest to appeal to many besides physicians and medical students.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

HERE WE GO ROUND—Evelyn Sharp—*Morrow* (\$1). Tracing man's evolution by way of the dance is the interesting theme of this small volume, which is really a history of the dance from the first one performed ceremonially by a caveman to modern jazz.

Evolution
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

THE ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION—G. Elliott Smith—*Morrow* (\$1). A well-known British champion of the diffusion theory of civilization describes the progress made in ancient Egypt and the scattering of that progress through the Mediterranean area and the East. The theory carried to its ultimate limits leads to the startling suggestion that America got its ideas of pyramid building from the East. In view of the increasing evidences of the antiquity of Mayan culture, it is rather hard to accept Dr. Smith's statement: "It was not until the sixth or seventh century A. D. that the great stone pyramids of Cambodian and Javanese types were constructed in America." Nevertheless, an interesting little book, and a thought provoking one, perhaps especially so where the reader may not agree with the author.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

EMOTION AS THE BASIS OF CIVILIZATION—J. H. Denison—*Scribner* (\$5). The power of an emotion to direct the destiny of a group of human beings has been too little considered. This valuable addition to social psychology brings together evidence from the civilization of China, Rome, and other people of the past, as well as our own present-day emotional trends. The scope of the book cannot be put into words better than those of the author's preface, where he expresses the desire "to indicate the vast influence of emotions on social organization, and the necessity of determining what emotions can be used today to support our democratic institutions and to advance civilization; and further to suggest an inquiry as to whether the emotional cultures now in use are helpful or harmful, and as to what methods can be used to create and maintain the emotions which are found to be necessary".

Sociology—Psychology
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929

DARWINISM AND WHAT IT IMPLIES—Sir Arthur Keith—*Watts* (7d). The main facts about evolution and a brief discussion of their philosophical implications condensed into a 56-page paper-bound book offered at almost nothing a copy. Sir Arthur Keith's signature is surety enough that the quality of the discussion is of the highest, even though the price be of the lowest.

Evolution
Science News-Letter, February 2, 1929