

First Glances at New Books

CHRISTIAN AND JEW—Edited by Isaac Landman — *Liveright* (\$3). This symposium for the better understanding of Christian and Jew is of real value in the consideration of the most prominent and perplexing racial problems of our country and our times. The 37 authors represent almost as many different points of view and express their minds freely and frankly, but all agree in expressing the spirit of good will which is the only effective solvent of such difficulties. No one can read the book without becoming both better informed and better natured. Among the contributors to the volume are: James Harvey Robinson, Henry Fairfield Osborn, Joseph Collins, Charles M. Schwab, Norman Angell, John Erskine, Edward A. Filene, Jacob Wassermann, Zona Gale, S. Parkes Cadman, Stephen S. Wise, Walter Prichard Eaton, Abram Simon, Channing Pollock, Charles P. Fagnani, Hendrik Willem van Loon, Francis P. Duffy. A Permanent Commission on Better Understanding between Christians and Jews in America has been formed to consider cases of unjust discrimination.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

THE MOTIVES OF MEN—George A. Coe—*Scribner* (\$2.25). Discusses the motive power that determines an individual's attitude toward problems of industry, science and religion. The warning is sounded that: "We have entered upon a period of spiritual depression. The opinion may be ventured, moreover, that some view of human motives is going to be the turning point of every perilous issue in modern life and civilization." The volume is based on the Nathaniel Taylor lectures given by the author at the Divinity School of Yale University in 1926.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

THE ANATOMY OF EMOTION—Edward William Lazell—*Century* (\$3). Principles of what might be called emotional hygiene presented to the layman. The author is to be commended for his specific handling of the subject, which gives the reader definite facts in such form that he can apply them to his own problems. The effect of the emotions on the body and the effect of physical condition on the emotions and the inextricable interplay of mind and body are stressed.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

RADIO—Irvin Stewart, Editor—*Amer. Acad. Pol. & Soc. Sci., Phila., Pa.* (Pa. \$1, Cl. \$1.50). Though containing two very valuable and concise chapters on the technical side of radio, one on its development by Laurens E. Whittemore and one on recent technical developments by Prof. Arthur E. Kennelly, this little book deals more with the educational, economic and legal aspects of the subject. Dr. J. J. Tigert, former U. S. Commissioner of Education, contributes the chapter on radio in the school system; former Federal Radio Commissioner O. H. Caldwell on administration of federal radio legislation; General J. G. Harbord, president of the R. C. A., on its commercial uses and the editor on its international regulation in time of peace.

Radio
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

THE BASES OF MODERN SCIENCE—J. W. N. Sullivan—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$2). Highlights in the history of physical science from Newton to Einstein, Weyl and Eddington, and their significance, told by a well-known English writer on popular science. The usefulness of this otherwise excellent book is limited by the lack of an index.

Physics
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

NEW PRACTICAL PHYSICS—Newton Henry Black and Harvey Nathaniel Davis—*Macmillan* (\$1.68). A new high-school text on physics, made especially interesting and modern by the inclusion of accounts of television, talking and colored motion pictures.

Physics
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

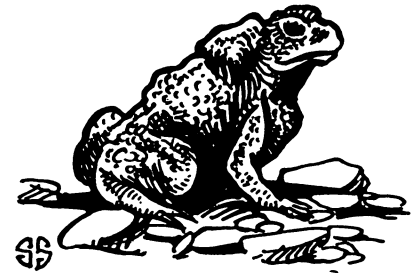
COLOR AND COLOR THEORIES—Christine Ladd-Franklin—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.50). A valuable contribution by the scientist whose theory of color has the distinction of being ranged alongside those of Helmholtz and Hering. She has here brought together the arguments against the theories of Helmholtz and Hering and has presented her own theory which includes certain features of each. Her theory of the evolution of the color-sense is of particular interest. The appendix which contains five articles on color by other scientists is a useful feature of the book, and mention should be made of the generous use of colored charts to make clear the points involved in the theories.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Friendly Toad

Shakespeare, who spent a long and active literary life getting up quotations on all possible subjects, has one for the toad, who he says is

"ugly and venomous,

"Yet wears a precious jewel in his head."

The statement is one-third strictly true, one-third strictly false, and one-third true in a sense never suspected by the naive naturalists who supplied Shakespeare with his information. There is no denying that the toad is ugly. You may even reproach the toad with his looks, and he will only maintain a pensive and injured silence. But plenty of valid evidence denies that the toad is venomous. He is not. He has no teeth and therefore could not bite even if he wanted to. He has no poison sacs in his mouth, so that even if he had teeth he would still be as harmless as a garter snake. And he is no more the cause of warts than red yarn and incantations on a dark night in a graveyard are the cure of warts. It is true, some toads do exude an ill-smelling, milky fluid from glands in their skin, which is slightly irritating to the human epidermis. But the action is so slight and so temporary that it can hardly be classed as really "venomous."

The real "jewel in his head" is his long, sticky, muscular, protrusible tongue with which he gathers in his huge daily rations of insects. As a perambulating insect trap it would be difficult to improve on a toad. He is squat, so that he can crawl under the lowest plants in the garden. He is clod-colored, and can sit for long periods as still as any clod—an indispensable virtue in a stalking huntsman. His forked tongue is as quick as forked lightning; it takes a super-fast motion picture camera to catch it in action. He is all mouth to catch his prey, and all belly to hold it, and he sticks strictly to insects.

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

Problems of Mutation

Evolution

T. H. MORGAN, in *What is Darwinism?* (Norton):

There are other difficulties for the mutation theory that are still under discussion and are not to be prejudiced without further work. For example, most of the new types are less vigorous than the wild types from which they come; many of them are defective and could not possibly survive in open competition; others differ so far from the original types in one or another character as to upset the nice adjustment of the parts that is so essential to the life of the individual. Such mutants often give the impression of downward rather than upward evolution. These are difficulties that the mutation theory must meet, but it would be rash to reject the evidence because of these considerations.

For, we must remember, in the first place, that animals and plants are already so adjusted to the manifold conditions of their existence that almost any haphazard change will be deleterious. If this be generalized, it might be used equally as an argument against all theories of change—that is, against any theory of evolution. There is,

however, a way out of this apparent *impasse*. The external conditions may change and the organism will then be maladjusted, and unless it can make a new adjustment it will perish. Again, at the boundaries of its usual range, new variants may be able to adjust themselves to the different conditions that there exist. It is to be remembered, too, that there is often an intimate interrelation between species. Many of them are closely bound up with the status of other species. This is especially apparent for parasite and host. Consequently any change, progressive or retrogressive, in one type will introduce a new environmental factor for others and the chain of events often has far-reaching consequences. With the appearance of new types a new opportunity arises for lower or higher types to exploit them. Furthermore, there may occur at times physiological changes that are an improvement, such as an increase in fertility, or in hardihood, or in time of reaching maturity, and so on. These changes would be difficult to detect, and as yet the mutationists have paid too little attention to them.

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

New Books—Cont'd

ITALY BEFORE THE ROMANS—David Randall-MacIver — *Oxford Univ. Press* (6s.). This simply written, small-sized book is like a pocket flashlight in the hazy field of pre-Roman Italy. The subject matter is so well organized that the omission of an index, ordinarily inexcusable, is not a serious inconvenience.

Archaeology

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

THE RAIN-MAKERS—Mary Roberts Coolidge—*Houghton Mifflin* (\$4). One of those happily constructed books that manages to be encyclopedic in the ground it covers and yet is written informally enough to afford entertaining reading. The Rain-Makers are the Indians of Arizona and New Mexico. The book tells of their history, arts and industries, their social order and their mythology.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

HOW THE WORLD IS CLOTHED—Frank G. Carpenter—*American Book Company* (96c.). This new edition of the Industrial Readers series, which have for more than twenty years held their place in the schools, is another proof of the possibility of combining interest and instruction. Apparently the modern child enjoys reading the facts about the origin of familiar objects as he does the fiction of the old fairy tales that pedagogical conservative forces aim to read.

Economics

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

A HISTORY OF MATHEMATICAL NOTATIONS; VOL. II: NOTATIONS MAINLY IN HIGHER MATHEMATICS—Florian Cajori—*Open Court* (\$6). In this second volume of Professor Cajori's exhaustive work he traces the origin of such signs as pi for 3.1415 . . . , e for 2.7182 . . . , for logarithms, integrals, differentials, etc. A section is also included on the origin of \$ which he concludes was derived from *ps* as an abbreviation for *pesos*.

Mathematics

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

MEMORIES OF LAND AND SKY—Gertrude Bacon—*Methuen & Co., Ltd., London* (7s. 6d.). Reminiscences of the first English woman to ascend in an airplane.

Aeronautics

Science News-Letter, April 27, 1929

Orders are being filled now for the new

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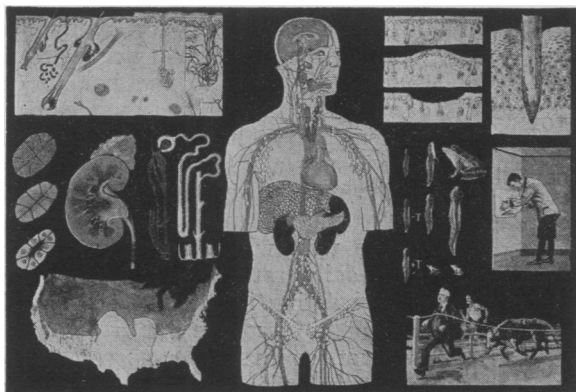


Chart W9 Secretion and Excretion

Chart W9 presents the digestive, excretory, lymphatic and endocrine glands. An appreciation of the mechanism of excretion and of representative functions of glands leads to an understanding of the needs of glands. Their hygiene also involves the care of the whole body. The temperature control and the body's protective coat are essential studies in

understanding fully cleanliness, bathing and proper clothing.

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