

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.

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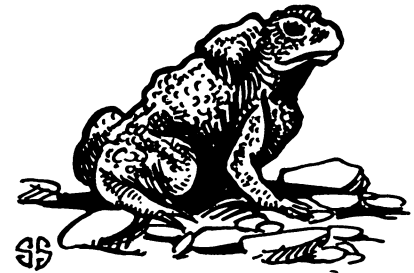
COLOR AND COLOR THEORIES—Christine Ladd-Franklin—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.50). A valuable contribution by the scientist whose theory of color has the distinction of being ranged alongside those of Helmholtz and Hering. She has here brought together the arguments against the theories of Helmholtz and Hering 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