# FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE ORGANIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE—Henry Evelyn Bliss—*Henry Holt* ($5). The present partition of the sciences is the accidental result of their historical development, like the prevailing boundaries of nations. We are then not violating any law of Nature when we adopt another system for the classification of natural phenomena, when we substitute a psychological for a chronological way of approach. Our blind following of the conventional and arbitrary separation of the sciences in the curriculum and library is the cause of constant confusion, so Mr. Bliss' effort to introduce a rational system is a timely movement. He compares and criticizes the various systems for the classification of human knowledge devised by Aristotle, Hobbes, Leibniz, Kant, Comte, Spencer, Münsterberg, and Ostwald. The question is not merely one of philosophical interest, but has a very practical bearing upon methods of education, the organization of scientific societies and congresses, and the classification of books in the library.

*Gneeral Science*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

THE MANSIONS OF PHILOSOPHY—Will Durant—*Simon and Schuster* $5). Having shown himself remarkably successful in making clear the philosophy of others Will Durant has undertaken the same task for his own philosophy and with the same success. He discusses current problems of democracy, education, marriage, religion and esthetics with such frankness and tolerance that those who do not agree with his conclusions must concede his good intent and fairmindedness.

*Philosophy*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCREW THREAD COMMISSION—U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Standards — *Government Printing Office* (50c). In our civilization, so largely founded upon the machine, it is important that every nut fit the bolt. The standardization of screw threads of all sorts has been a major mechanical engineering activity and this report gives the history and specifications.

*Engineering*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

PROVE IT YOURSELF—Bertha F. Gordon—*Owen* ($1.50). This little book of "Experiments in Elementary Science" by a teacher in the public schools of Chicago contains many ingeniously devised experiments to lead boys and girls in their first steps in the field of science and in the acquiring an acquaintance of scientific methods by the only possible way—that is, by trying it out.

*General Science*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

HAVE WE KEPT THE FAITH?—C. A. Prosser and C. R. Allen—*Century* ($2.75). The authors show that more than 80 per cent. of the time of the typical high-school student is spent in the study of a foreign language, algebra and geometry, ancient or medieval history, classical English and a formalized presentation of one or more sciences. They contend that these studies are mostly the remnants of the old "aristo" education and do not equip our youth for service in modern society, nor for other supposed aims such as "the proper enjoyment of leisure" or "the more abundant life". Their idea of a democratic program of education, such as is now needed, is stated in these words:

1. It maintains and improves the physical condition of its people.
2. It maintains and improves the quality of the coming generation.
3. It promotes those skills and intelligence which conserve and utilize material resources.
4. It promotes the conservation of human resources.
5. It is universal in its contacts and service.
6. It trains people to think up to the limit of their thinking capacity.
7. It selects and trains capable leaders in all lines of endeavor.
8. It establishes and maintains among people a sane and intelligent view regarding national defense.
9. It trains in the fundamental arts of reading, writing, and figuring up to the necessary minimum which will enable a citizen to communicate with his fellows and to educate himself.
10. It gains these results by efficient procedures and, therefore, at a minimum social cost of time, effort and material.

*Philosophy*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

A BRIEF COURSE IN CHEMISTRY—Lyman C. Newell—*Health* ($1.48). A new and very attractive high school text on chemistry that should soon find a place in this already rather crowded field. The division of the book into two parts; the first containing the "minimum essentials" and the second "supplementary topics," makes it easy for the teacher to adapt the book to almost any kind of a course. In the first part are the fundamentals—elements, oxygen, carbon and its oxides, water, symbols and equations, etc., while the second part includes atomic theory, kinetic theory, Avogadro's law, periodic table, radioactivity, etc.

*Chemistry*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN KAMCHATKA—Waldemar Jochelson—*Carnegie Institution of Washington* ($2.75). A report of the field work conducted in 1910-11 under the auspices of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. Dr. Jochelson discusses the early contacts of white men in Kamchatka, new knowledge on the stone age culture of the region, and the transition into the age of metals.

*Archæology*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

PASTURES OF WONDER — Cassius Jackson Keyser—*Columbia University Press* ($2.75). A mathematician looks at, discusses and philosophizes upon the relations between mathematics and science. He sees "mathematics as an edifice of hypotheticals, science as an edifice of categoricals." Panthetics is proposed as a suitable name to designate that enterprise which embraces both mathematics and science.

*Philosophy*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

INVESTIGATION OF HEATING ROOMS WITH DIRECT STEAM RADIATORS EQUIPPED WITH ENCLOSURES AND SHIELDS (Bulletin No. 192)—Arthur C. Willard, Alonzo P. Kratz, Maurice K. Fahnestock and Seichi Konzo—*University of Illinois* (40c). Should steam radiators in our residences be adorned or left in their old-fashioned unhoused bareness? This research bulletin contains the answer.

*Engineering*
*Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*