

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

1001 CELESTIAL WONDERS—Charles Edward Barns—*Pacific Science Press* (\$2.50). When Mr. Barns published the first edition of this book in 1927, it was received with well-deserved acclaim by the astronomical world, both amateur and professional. So popular was it, in fact, that the edition was soon exhausted. Now the author has found time to print another, for a unique feature of it is that Mr. Barns not only wrote it, but personally printed it as well. As it stands, it is a testimony to his ability as an astronomer, as an author and as a printer. Like the first edition, it contains a set of seventy-two star charts showing the principal telescopic objects in each, as well as all the naked-eye stars. The second part of the book contains full detailed instructions for making reflecting and refracting telescopes. All this is supplemented by a fine group of astronomical photographs, accounts of the members of the solar system, important astronomical objects and the late researches. It is a *sine qua non* for the library of every amateur astronomer.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

STUDIES OF MEAN SEA-LEVEL—Report of Committee on Shoreline Investigations by Douglas Johnson, Bulletin 70—*National Research Council* (50c). That the general sea-level is not rising nor the land subsiding is the conclusion of the studies reported in this bulletin.

Oceanography
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

MUSHROOMS OF FIELD AND WOOD—Margaret McKenny—*John Day* (\$2). A few years ago there were almost no books on the fleshy fungi that could be recommended for the beginning student or the general wood-wandering public; now there are many. In spite of this competition, however, Miss McKenny's book will certainly make a place for itself, for it is carefully and scientifically gotten up, yet so simply and clearly written that not even the most simple wayfarer need err therein.

Mycology
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

FRENCH IDIOM LIST—Frederic D. Cheydleur—*Macmillan* (75c). Idiom is the heart of language; even the occasional user of French will be interested in the frequency of occurrence of the various expressions listed and analyzed in this book.

Language
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

REPORTS OF THE CONFERENCES ON CYCLES—*Carnegie Inst.* (Gratis). In 1922, Dr. J. C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution, called a conference of leading research workers on the problems of cycles of all kinds—weather, sunspot, economic, etc. Last December a second conference was called. This volume contains the reports of both. It includes papers by Dr. D. T. MacDougal, on "Trees as Recorders"; by Dr. A. E. Douglass, on "Cycles in Tree Growth"; by Dr. W. C. White, on "Relation of Certain Diseases to Cycles in Nature"; by Dr. C. G. Abbot, on "Variations in Solar Radiation"; by Dr. Ellsworth Huntington, on "Cycles of Health" and on "Causes of Cycles"; and by Dr. H. L. Moore, on "Economic Cycles."

General Science
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

THE EXPORT DEBENTURE PLAN FOR WHEAT—*Stanford University Food Research Institute*. In this study of the export debenture plan offered to Congress and the country as one of the solutions of the farm problem, the experts of the Food Research Institute, which incidentally was organized largely through Mr. Hoover's interest, arrived at the conclusion that the export debenture plan would not provide the relief to agriculture that its proponents claim. The verdict of the experts in this case coincides in general with the Congressional verdict.

Economics
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

AIR COMMERCE BULLETIN, VOL. I, No. 1—*Dept of Commerce, Aeronautics Branch*—This latest addition to the ranks of the Government printed bulletins was formerly issued in mimeographed form under the title of "Domestic Air News." It includes lists of United States air transport lines, together with a map, a review of aircraft radio research, and other interesting articles, as well as official statements of the Department.

Airiation
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

METALS AND ALLOYS: VOL. I, No. 1—H. W. Gillett, Editor—*Chemical Catalog* (\$3 per year). The first issue of a new publication which deals with the industrial application of metals and combinations of metals.

Metalography
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

MODERN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF NATURE, MAN AND SOCIETY—Frederick A. Cleveland—*Ronald* (\$4.50). To attempt to sum up the whole of modern scientific knowledge in 592 pages is such an ambitious project that one would think it foredoomed to failure. Yet that is what is done in this book, and, surprisingly enough, is very well done. Naturally, there are omissions of what some might consider essential, but on the whole, the book is a very good summary of the nature of the world of men and things around us. The staff of collaborators, including such distinguished names as Harlow Shapley, Horation Hackett Newman, Wayland F. Vaughan, Franklin H. Giddings, and others, indicates how this success was attained.

General Science
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

THE COAT OF ARMS, CREST AND GREAT SEAL OF THE U. S. A.—Leonard Wilson—*N. Francis Maw* (\$1.25). An illustrated account of the history and meaning of the arms, crest and seal of this country. Mr. Wilson's book should be especially interesting to the young student of American history.

Heraldry
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

EXPERIMENTS IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY—Norma V. Scheidemann—*Univ. of Chicago Press* (\$1). A notebook manual which directs students as to how to make a series of simple experiments and observations which link with the facts presented in the usual first year psychology text. The author aims, not merely to aid the student in fixing the book principles in mind more firmly, but she believes that such exercises will develop in the student a "greater interest in the study of mental life."

Psychology
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

BLUEPRINT READING—J. Ralph Daltzell, James McKinney and Herman Ritow—*American Technical Society* (\$1.25). A handbook for carpenters, builders and architects.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929

MOLECULAR PHYSICS IN RELATION TO BIOLOGY—Subcommittee on Molecular Physics—*National Research Council* (\$3). A monumental symposium discussing that increasingly important scientific borderland where molecular physics and biology meet.

Biology—Physics
Science News-Letter, August 17, 1929