

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

EARLY HISTORY OF ASSYRIA TO 1000 B. C.—Sidney Smith—*Dutton* (\$12). Fills out a series of three volumes on the history of Babylonia and Assyria, of which the earlier volumes on Babylonia were prepared by L. W. King. This account of Assyria's rise is distinctly "timely", for such a book could not have been written a few years ago. Recent archaeological discoveries, notably those at Ur and Kish, have made it possible to test the truth of traditions, and to fill in important gaps in old chronicles. In consequence of these late additions to our knowledge of the ancient world, the usual history book landmarks of battles and dynasties stand out in comparatively slight relief, because of our interest in new-found details about the people themselves, their origin, traits, and manners. The author points out that there are still blank pages in Assyrian history and some of the present interpretations await confirmation. But the story is now complete enough to convince the reader that Assyria is as worthy of his interest as ancient Egypt.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

PRIMITIVE ECONOMICS OF THE NEW ZEALAND MAORI—Raymond Firth—*Dutton* (\$6.25). A study in comparative economics, written by a young anthropologist of New Zealand. Tribes such as the Maori have their problems of industry, wealth, land ownership, and distribution of goods; but their solution of these problems has usually been judged in the light of principles set down by civilized countries, with little understanding of local conditions such as natural resources, social institutions, and the primitive human factor. The writer of the preface, R. H. Tawney, points out that studies such as this enable us to turn back to our own economic organization and to view it more clearly, after we have considered a world with different standards and presuppositions.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

NEANDERTHAL (MOUSTERIAN) MAN—Oliver C. Farrington and Henry Field—*Field Museum of Natural History* (25c.). A clear and concise summary of what is known about these prehistoric Europeans, illustrated with striking restorations of the Neanderthal men, women, and children.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

AUDACIOUS AUDUBON—E. A. Murchamp—*Brentano's* (\$3.50). A biography of that versatile American genius, who, blamed by his contemporaries because he could not make money, retaliated upon the world by making himself famous and making the descendants of his critics more humanely nature-minded than they would ever have been without him.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

OLD AGE—A. S. Warthin—*Hoeber* (\$3). One of the most neglected phases of human existence is here examined carefully and critically, with recourse upon all the resources of physiology, biometry, psychology and allied sciences.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

LITERARY ETHICS—H. M. Paull—*Dutton* (\$3.75). All who have to do with the making—or reading—of the literary output of this prolific age will be interested in this study of forgery, plagiarism, and other crimes and misdemeanors in literary activities.

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MODERN MATERIALISM AND EMERGENT EVOLUTION—William McDougall—*Van Nostrand* (\$2.75). In this volume the noted author supplements the arguments contained in his "Body and Mind". The theme of the book is stated on the jacket, "This book shows that strictly scientific research establishes the fundamental assumptions of all religion and all morals; namely, that mind controls the world of nature and the process of evolution".

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SYSTEMATIC PSYCHOLOGY: PROLEGOMENA—Edward Bradford Titchener—*Macmillan* (\$2.50). A psychology for psychologists, in which a professor set about the task of defining a science which has been singularly difficult to bound, and the complementary task of orienting psychology to biology and physics.

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A BOOK OF INDIAN TALES—Charles Erskine Scott Wood—*Vanguard* (\$2). Twenty folk stories told around Indian campfires in the Northwest, and re-told by the author in simple, graphic style.

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PAPAGO MUSIC—Frances Densmore—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (\$1.25). Another of Miss Densmore's valuable bulletins in which the music of passing tribes is preserved. She has here recorded music of 167 songs of a desert tribe. In addition to the music, a translation of the Indian words is given, and an analysis of the song, and in many cases a description of the legend, ceremony, or other circumstances associated with the music. There is perhaps no modern record of Indian life which gives us such clear flashes of understanding of the Indian mind and temperament as the words of the old tribal songs.

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AMERICAN CIVIC ANNUAL—Edited by Harlean James—*American Civic Association* (\$3). As a record and reference book of civic progress this volume appearing for the first time fills a unique need. National parks, better homes, the federal city, regional planning, highways, building projects, parks, and a variety of other matters vital to better living are treated in short articles by experts.

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ITOGI POLUVEKOVH RABOT (SUMMARY OF FIFTY YEARS' WORK)—I. V. Michurin—*Novaya Derevnnya, Moscow*. A quarto volume summing up the results of a half-century's experiments in the breeding of horticultural plants, particularly of pomaceous fruits, by a man who occupies much the same position in Russia that the late Luther Burbank held in the United States. Printed in Russian, with many colored plates.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

C. R. E. A. NEWS LETTER—*Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture, Chicago*. The index to the first seven numbers of this periodical shows the immense range of recent applications of electricity to the farm. Among the topics treated are electric incubation and brooding, the lighting of homes and barns, pumping water for irrigation, dish washing, cow milking, refrigeration, ventilation, tool grinding, food chopping, insect catching, paint spraying, pig raising, and carpet sweeping.

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