

## First Glances at New Books

**THE THINKING MACHINE**—C. Judson Herrick—*University of Chicago Press* (\$3). With this challenging title as a text, Dr. Herrick proceeds in clear and orderly fashion to show what a machine really is and may be and what natural machines are like. The mechanistic view of human life expounded by this well-known physiologist may resolve many of the doubts of those who hesitate to think of man as a "machine," for we are told emphatically that such a view does not do away with choice, self-control, or the spiritual life, and a considerable portion of the book is devoted to psychology and human nature.

*Physiology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**THE MIND AT MISCHIEF**—William S. Sadler—*Funk and Wagnalls* (\$4). Few people who suffer from nerves and emotional conflicts understand to what extent they are the victims of intrigue and malicious deception on the part of their own minds, Dr. Sadler declares. Taking up one by one various abnormalities, he proceeds to explain how to recognize signs of trickery on the part of the mind, and how to put up a winning fight for self-mastery. The more serious mental diseases are not considered in this book, which deals with the "more or less abnormal" psychology of obsessions, fears, and other "complexes", emotional conflicts, hysteria, and simple paranoia.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**ADOPTION AMONG THE GUNANTUNA**—Joseph Meier—*Publ. Cath. Anthropol. Conf.* We may rate the "little brown brother" as a simple and primitive soul, but he is bepestered with the same problems of surplus population and birth control that we are. This brochure tells how one tropical tribe endeavors to meet them.

*Anthropology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**CARE AND DISEASES OF TROUT**—H. S. Davis—*Department of Commerce Document 1061* (15c). This pamphlet will be useful to all those who are engaged in the growing business of rearing trout for restocking our streams, and to zoologists generally.

*Ichthyology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**AMERICAN MESOZOIC MAMMALIA**—G. G. Simpson—*Yale University Press* (\$5). Back in the days when the earth was ruled by a heavy aristocracy of dinosaurs, there dodged among the thick underbrush, keeping out of their betters' way, a population of the meek who were ultimately to inherit the earth. These were the lowly beginnings of the mammalia, who still bore in teeth and limb reminders of their own reptilian origin. In this volume of the *Memoirs of the Peabody Museum*, Dr. Simpson gathers together all available data about such of these little known but highly important creatures as lived in America, and makes it conveniently accessible to students of ancient animal life.

*Paleontology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**HANDBOOK OF PALEONTOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS AND AMATEURS: PART I, THE FOSSILS**—Winifred Goldring—*New York State Museum Handbook*. (\$1.50). This is a compact little book that can be carried into the field in one's pocket, yet it contains in clear and well-arranged form all the information needed by the beginning student in paleontology. The text is reinforced by numbers of excellent line drawings.

*Paleontology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**GLACIAL GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS OF THE LOWER MOHAWK VALLEY**—A. P. Brigham—*New York State Museum Bulletin* (\$1.50). Students of the glacial geology of New York, and of the modern geographic phenomena resulting therefrom, will welcome the completion of this work.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**THE SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES OF NEW YORK STATE**—C. M. Nevin—*New York State Museum Bulletin* (\$1). Of interest to the building industries of the state, and to economic geologists in general.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

**IFUGAW VILLAGES AND HOUSES**—Francis Lambrecht—*Publ. Cath. Anthropol. Conf.* (50c). A close study of the building methods of an interesting Filipino tribe.

*Anthropology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

## Infantile Paralysis

*Public Health*

The period for the lowest level of infantile paralysis cases is approaching, the U. S. Public Health Service announces. From the first of December until the first of June about one case of the disease per 100,000 population will occur, health officials prophesy.

During the second six months of every year, from June 1 to December 1, from four to fourteen cases occur per 100,000 population. The greatest incidence is reached in mid-September when an average of two cases in three weeks per 100,000 occurs. Ever since the big epidemic of 1916, the month of June has been a time of special vigilance on the part of public health officers, who watch with concern a definite rise that occurs every year.

The measures through which might be expected a real diminution of incidence are those which diminish human contacts in general, but the drastic closing of all places of assembly is justifiable only with a very high incidence of, say, five or ten times the usual, and even in such a case the long incubation period would make it likely that in a restricted community the actual spread of the infection had begun to diminish before the alarm was sufficient to resort to such extremes.

Fewer cases of the disease occur in the warmer parts of the United States, but the seasonal distribution is about the same, proportionately, as it is in the North.

*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

## Washing Mosquito Eggs

*Entomology*

Washing mosquito eggs with soap and water and rinsing them in alcohol would seem to most housewives an unnecessary stretching of the laundry problem. Yet these measures were resorted to in the interests of science by Malcolm E. Macgregor, working at the Field Laboratory of the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research at Wisley, Surrey, England.

Mr. Macgregor's interest in the great unwashed of mosquitodrom was aroused when he studied the problem of why mosquito larvae as scientists call them grow only in water that has a certain degree of acidity or alkalinity.

*Science News-Letter, November 9, 1929*

Although more than 21 miles of the Carlsbad Cavern, in New Mexico, have been explored, its size is still a matter of conjecture.