

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES OF NUMERICAL DATA, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (VOL. VI)—National Research Council—*McGraw-Hill* (\$12). The compilation of the International Critical Tables, under the auspices of the International Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences, has been a major undertaking in the preservation and distribution of the fundamental constants of science. Volume VI, the next to the last, contains X-ray data, electronic and gas conduction, dielectric properties, electrical conductivity and resistivity, pyro and piezo-electricity, thermoelectricity, transference numbers of electrolytes in aqueous solution, electrolytic electromotive force, electrical and optical properties of SiO<sub>2</sub>, magnetism, atmospheric electricity, terrestrial magnetism, acoustics.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD—Max Mason and Warren Weaver—*University of Chicago Press* (\$6). A technical introduction to the mathematical field theory of electrodynamics which, the introduction says "is written in an attempt to keep clear the relation between the mathematical mechanism and the physical reality." The authors say further: "It is hoped that a student who gains his familiarity with the Maxwell field equations from this book will have an open mind, ready to evaluate without prejudice those fundamental new developments in electrical theory which are bound to come."

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

SOUND MOTION PICTURES—Harold B. Franklin—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$3). With every new industry there grows its own literature. The aim of this book is to present a condensed record of the progress of "sound" in motion pictures. The author, who is president of the Fox West Coast Theatres, has aimed this volume at the public and those interested professionally in the talkies.

*Physics—Photography*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY—J. H. Roe—*Mosby* (\$2.50). The second edition of a textbook by the professor of chemistry at the George Washington University Medical School.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

ENDS OF THE EARTH—Roy Chapman Andrews—*Putnam* (\$4.50). Long before he started on the trail of ancient man in Mongolia, Mr. Andrews had begun having adventures. His pursuit of whales and the big game of Asia, and at length the quest of ancient man, led him to strange places and into exciting and amusing encounters with men and beasts. While he was on his most recent Gobi Desert expedition this book was written, on trains and ships and airplanes. The author seems to think this a handicap, but judging by the delightful, informal style of his book, an expedition journey is just the time to reminisce about other expeditions.

*Exploration*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

NATIONALITY, ITS NATURE AND PROBLEMS—Bernard Joseph—*Yale University Press* (\$3). The phenomenon of nationality is one peculiarly interesting to scientist and those interested in science. The acquisition of new knowledge and the spread of knowledge obtained through research is truly international in its effect upon the world but boundary lines and political divisions and sentiments do often influence the progress of science.

*Political Geography—Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

THE NATIONALIST PROGRAM FOR CHINA—Chao-Chu Wu—*Yale University Press* (\$1.50). Aside from the political aspects of new China, the policies of the nationalistic government are of direct interest to scientists because of their possible effect upon the progress of scientific research, both native and foreign, in China and its wide area. This is an authoritative statement by the minister from China to the United States.

*Political Geography*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

THE PACIFIC AREA—George H. Blakeslee—*World Peace Foundation* (\$2). There is extreme timeliness in this summary by a Clark University professor of the situation in the Far East today. The political and military skirmishes in Manchuria can be better understood after reading portions of this volume.

*Political Geography*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

THE WORLD'S GRASSES—J. W. Bews—*Longmans* (\$7.50). The average young botanist is perhaps more afraid of the grasses than he is of any other group of vascular plants. They really aren't so dreadful, systematically speaking; but they have somehow got themselves a terrifying reputation. For this cause alone, any addition to the literature that facilitates working with grasses will be welcomed by the botanical profession. Add to it Prof. Bews' high standing in taxonomy, and his long residence in South Africa, one of the world's most interesting grassland areas, and you have compelling causes for adding this work to any botanical bookshelf. Ecological and economic notes, and a key that looks as though it would really work, add further to the value of the book.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

BOTANY: PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS—E. W. Sinnott—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). A second edition of a comprehensive and well-arranged botanical textbook that has already justified its existence.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

STUDIES OF AMERICAN PLANTS, I and II—Paul C. Standley—*Field Museum Publ. 264*. Chiefly descriptions of new species of Mexican and Central American plants; of interest to systematists.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

FISHES—N. A. Borodin—*Bull. Vanderbilt Marine Mus., Vol. I, Art. 1*. This, the first item in a new series of scientific publications, concerns itself with material collected on the expedition of the yacht "Ara" during the years 1926 to 1928, while in command of William K. Vanderbilt.

*Ichthyology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

NOTES ON HOPI CLANS—Robert H. Lowie—*American Museum of Natural History* (50c). A study of the clan organization in four Indian villages, showing the size of the clans, the marriages and relationships, and the social and ceremonial aspects.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

HOPI KINSHIP—Robert E. Lowie—*American Museum of Natural History* (35c). Discusses principally the influence of the clan upon linguistics.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

## First Glances at New Books—Continued

**THE SOVIET UNION LOOKS AHEAD**—U. S. S. R. State Planning Commission—*Horace Liveright* (\$2.50). When the Soviet Union, large of area although small in age and out of step politically with much of the rest of the world, outlines its economic plans for the next five years, there must be included in them many things of interest to those interested in the application of science to industry. Development of electric power, fuel, metal industry and machine construction, chemical production, forestry, production of building materials, and many other activities firmly resting upon applied science are contained in the Soviet's five-year plan.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE STORY OF GOVERNMENT**—Sir Charles Petrie—*Little, Brown* (\$3.50). This history of the forms which various people have set up to regulate their national conduct is written by an English authority. It deals largely with the main stream of progress which has led to those forms of polity that are established everywhere in Europe and America today.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**JOY IN WORK**—Henri de Man—*Henry Holt* (\$2). Why we sing or grumble at our work was the subject of a German investigation here presented in translation. It is a contribution to the new psychology of industrial employment.

*Psychology—Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**YOUTHFUL OLD AGE**—Walter M. Gallichan—*Macmillan* (\$2.50). This book purports to be advice for older persons on how to live so as to get the most out of the later years of life. Some of the author's theories are not in accord with present medical opinion. The purpose of the book is admirable, but after all, it would seem that a physician is the person best qualified to advise aged as well as young persons on how to live happily and healthily.

*Hygiene*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE CHEMISTRY OF LEATHER MANUFACTURE**—John Arthur Wilson—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$10). The second edition of the second volume of a monumental work on leather. This is one of the American Chemical Society Monographs.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**GEOLOGIC STRUCTURES**—Bailey Willis and Robin Willis—*McGraw-Hill* (\$4). A second edition, revised and enlarged, of a book on geologic structures under the senior authorship of the dean of American structural geologists. Both text and diagrammatic illustrations are masterpieces of straightforwardness and clarity in presentation.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE FUTURE OF THE EARTH**—Harold Jeffreys—*Norton* (\$1). A little book that contains as many disquieting prophecies as some of the little books in the middle of the Bible. Only the author here writes from a coldly accurate knowledge of past cosmogony and argues therefrom what the earth may yet be expected to do.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE EVOLUTION OF EARTH AND MAN**—Edited by G. A. Baitsell—*Yale University Press* (\$5). This is a noteworthy addition to the growing literature of symposia on the earth and the things that therein are. Its list of authors includes twelve of the foremost members of the Yale faculty, men with international reputations, whose words can be accepted as sound and solid in their several fields.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE LAND MAMMALS OF URUGUAY**—C. C. Sanborn—*Field Museum Publ.* 265. Of interest to systematic zoologists and students of animal distribution.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**BIRDS OF THE JAMES SIMPSON-ROOSEVELTS ASIATIC EXPEDITION**—C. E. Hellmayr—*Field Museum Publ.* 263. An amply annotated check-list of the birds brought back from little visited regions by an unusually well-organized expedition.

*Ornithology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**THE WORLD SUGAR SITUATION**—*League of Nations, Economic Committee* (25c). That Australia has the largest per capita sugar consumption, greater than that of the United States, is one of the interesting facts revealed in this pamphlet.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**RAYON AND OTHER SYNTHETIC FIBERS**—W. D. Darby—*Textile Publishing Co.* (\$1.50). In 1923 the National Retail Dry Goods Association selected and sponsored the word "rayon" as the generic name for all synthetic fibers previously called artificial silk. The rayon industry has grown tremendously in the years since its christening and its history is told in this small volume prepared primarily for manufacturers and retailers.

*Chemistry—Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**TIN**—C. L. Mantell—*Chemical Catalog Co.* (\$7). The American Chemical Society Monographs are among the most useful of science books today. Within this volume is brought together much of the present day knowledge of an important metal which the United States sadly lacks within its own soil.

*Metallurgy—Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**CEMENT**—Henry W. Nichols—*Field Museum of Natural History* (25c). Intended to explain exhibits of the Field Museum of Natural History, this leaflet is a brief description of the history, manufacture and use of cement.

*Materials*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**BEGINNINGS OF TELEPHONY**—Friedrick L. Rhodes—*Harpers* (\$4). This comprehensive history of the rise of the telephone to the status of a necessity is comprehensive yet readable. Legal details and court decisions are quoted along with the more scientific and technical developments which from Bell's initial invention until the turn of the century constituted the founding of a great industry and public service.

*Electrical Engineering*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*

**IDOLS BEHIND ALTARS**—Anita Brenner—*Payson and Clarke* (\$5). A colorful and sympathetic interpretation of Mexico's people, the celebrities that we read of in the press, the revolutionists, the Indian natives, the artists—particularly the artists. Art is given special attention for the author believes that art is organically a part of life in Mexico and also that "only as artists can Mexicans be intelligible." The book stresses underlying causes and origins, showing the influence of the old, native idols behind the modern imported altars.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 16, 1929*