

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

FIELD BOOK OF THE SKIES—William Tyler Olcott and Edmund W. Putnam—*Putnam* (\$3.50). Mr. Olcott, author of several popular astronomical works, including a standard authority on stellar mythology, and his colleague have here produced a new work that deserves wide distribution. Detailed descriptions and maps of the constellations visible at different times of year, accounts of what can be seen in them with the naked eye, opera glasses, and small telescopes; information about the planets; the sun and the moon; and a chronological list of important dates in the history of astronomy are a few of the many valuable features.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

BOYS' BOOK OF ASTRONOMY—Goodwin Deloss Swezey and J. Harris Gable—*Dutton* (\$2.50). Astronomy has been relegated to such a minor place in modern schools that a new popular astronomical work for young people is most welcome. This book thoroughly and accurately covers the ground. Unfortunately, however, the text is decidedly "written down" in a manner that should always be avoided in books for young people. But the worst part of the work is the illustrations. Many of these are so crude that it seems as if a child had drawn them.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

PHYSICS OF THE HOME—Frederick A. Osborn—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). The second edition of a text to meet the needs of women students who want to know those principles of physics which find constant application in their daily home life.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

MY LIFE OF MAGIC—Howard Thurston—*Dorrance* (\$2.50). One of the leading professional magicians here tells how he entered the field and some of his interesting experiences.

*Legerdemain*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

THE MUSICIAN'S ARITHMETIC—Max F. Meyer—*Univ. of Missouri* (\$1.25). A series of drill problems for an introduction to the scientific study of musical composition. According to the author, it is not "lazy reading," but intended for use "as a text under the rigorous discipline of a college class."

*Music—Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR 1928—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (\$2). The really sensational article on "Missing Links" by Dr. Gerrit S. Miller is but one of the 22 important scientific papers that make up the bulk of this 763 page book. Among other articles are: Jeans on "Cosmogony," Pease on "Astronomical Telescopes," Millikan and Cameron on "Cosmic Rays," Schuchert on "Continental Displacement," Wetmore on "Birds of the Past," Kellogg on "Migrations of Whales," McIndoo on "Communication among Insects" and Hrdlicka on "Neanderthal Man." Copies may also be obtained by those interested on application to the Institution.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

THE STORY OF EVOLUTION—Benjamin C. Gruenberg—*Van Nostrand* (\$4). A veteran teacher and writer here undertakes the many-times attempted task of writing evolution for the special benefit of the student, both him in school and him who still wishes to learn though his school days are behind him. He comes well equipped, and he has the advantage of certain new facts and concepts that have appeared since the flurry that followed the Dayton trial four and a half years ago. Dr. Gruenberg deserves special commendation for disturbing the too-easy optimism of the Victorian idea of evolutionary "progress" still popularly prevalent.

*Evolution*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

A SOURCE BOOK IN MATHEMATICS—David Eugene Smith—*McGraw-Hill* (\$5). Criticism of a book such as this is impossible, because it consists of quotations from mathematical classics from the Renaissance to the end of the Nineteenth century. All the selections are in English, those in other languages having been skillfully translated. It covers the field of number, the field of algebra, the field of geometry, the field of probability and the field of the calculus, functions and quaternions. Robert Recorde, Stevin, Pascal, Euler, Gauss, Napier, Leibniz, Newton, Galileo, Cardan, Fermat, Bernoulli, Descartes, Riemann, Lobachevsky, DeMoivre, Laplace and Hamilton are a few of the authors represented.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

ANIMALS LOOKING AT YOU—Paul Eipper, transl. by Patrick Kirwan—*Viking Press* (\$3). The German author of this book shows himself a true son of Il Poverello in his sympathetic understanding of his brothers on the other side of the cage bars. Not always on the other side, either; for he tells of happy hours spent playing with young oranges in the straw of their cage, and of his chaperonage of a youthful gorilla on a train trip. He does not make any pretense at being professionally zoological; he is much more useful than that; he shows how any average citizen can really get something out of a trip to the zoo. The many excellent photographs by Hedda Walther add much to the charm of the book.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

DOWN IN THE GRASS—Harold Kellock—*Coward-McCann* (\$2). The story of a little boy who by magic became so small he could walk about among the insects. Necessarily a good deal anthropomorphized, the six and eight-legged folk in this tale nevertheless retain essentially their own characters, and the book thus manages to deal out considerable entomological information in sugar-coated doses.

*Entomology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

FORESTS AND MANKIND—C. L. Pack and T. Gill—*Macmillan* (\$3). This book combines a clear and exceedingly readable exposition of the importance of forests and their products to the human race with vigorous propaganda for conservation and reforestation in the United States. The numerous well-thought-out diagrammatic illustrations add a good deal to its "punch."

*Forestry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

CATALOGUE OF BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS, Part VI—C. E. Hellmayr—*Field Museum*. This volume, constituting Publication 266 of the Field Museum, deals with the Oxyruncidae, Pipridae, Cotingidae, Rupicolidae and Phytotomidae.

*Ornithology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

DOWN THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS RIVER—Clyde Eddy—*Stokes* (\$2.50). An impressionistic account of an adventurous descent of the Colorado River.

*Geography*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

## First Glances at New Books—Continued

ANIMAL LOVER'S KNAPSACK—Edited by E. O. Grover—*Crowell* (\$2.50). This is a most catholic kind of an anthology, in praise of all kinds of animals: dogs, cats, donkeys, deer, crows, nightingales, toads and grasshoppers. All manner of pets are represented, and all times and nations. The book should do nicely as a Christmas gift.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

OUTLINE OF BACTERIOLOGY—H. A. Bartels—*W. A. Broder* (\$2). A very much condensed introduction to bacteriology, adapted for use in technical courses that do not permit time for more extended instruction.

*Bacteriology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

BRYOZOA OF THE PHILIPPINE REGION—Ferdinand Canu and Ray S. Bassler—*Government Printing Office* (\$1.50). A comprehensive monograph, of interest to students of marine zoology. This publication constitutes Bulletin 100, Volume 9, of the Smithsonian Institution.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

OÖLITES OR CAVE PEARLS IN THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS—F. L. Hess—*Government Printing Office*. This issue of the proceedings of the U. S. National Museum contains a brief description of curious and beautiful deposits found in one of the new wonders of the Southwest.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

A LABORATORY MANUAL OF HISTORICAL GEOLOGY—Kirtley F. Mather and Carey G. Croneis—*Harvard University Press* (\$2). A loose-leaf laboratory manual prepared especially for students in "Geology 5" at Harvard, but equally applicable in any institution where a course is given that, like this one, "involves a survey of the known and inferred history of the earth and its inhabitants during geologic time."

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

NEW LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS IN PRACTICAL PHYSICS—N. Henry Black—*Macmillan* (\$1.12). A new edition of the laboratory manual to accompany Black and Davis' "New Practical Physics." The number of experiments has been increased from sixty-five to seventy-one in order to give the instructor greater latitude in selecting experiments to suit his needs.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY—L. C. Newell—*Heath* (\$1.48). A revised new edition of a successful textbook for a general chemistry course. It contains, in addition to the regular text, an ample second part outlining 239 laboratory experiments and tests.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

ARTIFICIAL SILK—O. Faust, transl. by Ernest Fyleman—*Pitman* (\$3). This is a complete but compact discussion of the machines and processes used in the production of the latest and most successful invader of the textile field. It will be of use and interest to chemists and technologists as well as to those interested in the actual manufacture of rayon.

*Textiles*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

FRENCH WORD BOOK—George E. Vander Beke—*Macmillan* (\$1.00). One of the many useful publications of the American and Canadian Committees on Modern Languages. Words are arranged in the order of their importance, based on the frequency with which they appear in a variety of French books and newspapers. The volume should be of great assistance to the French teacher and student. The English equivalents of the words are not given, however.

*Language*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS—W. Stull Holt—*The Brookings Institution* (\$1.50). This volume is prepared by the Institute for Government Research as No. 53 of the Service Monographs of the United States Government. A rather comprehensive discussion of the history, activities, and organization of a very useful government bureau.

*Civics*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

REACHING OTHER MINDS—Davida McCaslin—*Knopf* (\$1.75). A book on English composition for college students which deals more with the spirit than with the form of writing.

*Literature*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

CAPITAL AND LABOR—John A. Fitch—*American Library Association* (35c). Number 48 of the excellent series "Reading With a Purpose." It introduces several books which will help the reader to increase his understanding of industrial problems.

*Industry*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

MODERN CHINESE CIVILIZATION—A. F. Legendre—*Cape and Smith* (\$2.75). Beyond the coast cities with which Europeans are familiar lies another China, primitive almost beyond our imagining. Dr. Legendre, who was director of the Imperial School of Medicine at Chengtufu, lived in this interior for twenty years. He has painted a devastating picture of the actual conditions there. The book reads easily and does much to explain the apparently hopeless political and social tangle in China. The translation from the French is by Elsie Martin Jones.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

GREEK MEDICINE—Arthur J. Brock—*Dutton* (\$1.75). Extracts from the works of the chief Greek medical writers from Hippocrates to Galen are presented, most of the translations from the original being made by Dr. Brock. The book is one in the "Library of Greek Thought" edited by Ernest Barker. The present revival of interest in medical history has brought forth many books on the subject, but this one is particularly valuable because it enables the layman to read for himself the very words of the "Father of Medicine" and his successors. The extracts are furnished with brief critical and explanatory notes.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

PLANNING A CAREER—L. W. Smith and G. L. Blough—*American Book Co.* (\$1.44). A text-book attempting to give public school students an outline of each of the many occupations which may be open to them. The discussion of each of the vocations and professions is necessarily somewhat superficial, but the book should serve to stimulate the interest of young people in planning a career.

*Education*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*

STUDIES IN SERVICE AND SELF-CONTROL—Hugh Hartshorne, Mark A. May, and Julius B. Maller—*Macmillan* (\$2.75). To analyze single types of behavior the authors have conducted controlled experimental studies, devised and given tests to many school children, and gathered quantities of statistics. Sorting out the significant facts and implications, the psychologists present new data on the connection between character and age, intelligence, physical condition, and environment.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, November 30, 1929*