

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY—Edited by Carl Murchison—*Clark University Press* (\$6). The problems which, it has been concluded, psychology may profitably attack from the experimental angle are discussed in twenty-three chapters, each by a well known experimentalist. The range of the problems spreads over the borderlines of the various sciences allied to psychology, and so we have a chapter on hunger and thirst by Cannon, the mechanism and laws of heredity by Morgan, the conflict and survival of cultures by Wissler, the abnormal individual by Franz, as well as chapters on senses and emotions and abilities. The editor states: "It is our intention that this book shall appear in new editions frequently enough to be always abreast of progress. This will mean a revision almost every year."

Psychology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

DANGER SPOTS IN WORLD POPULATION—Warren S. Thompson—*Knopf* (\$3.50). Constantly haunted by a Malthusian specter, the world has staggered along from war to war for many generations. Between wars, it has wavered between palliatives and platitudes in the pious hope of promoting peace, and insolences and racial superiority complexes born of the fear of crowding neighbors. The specter has not yet been laid, and until it is looked in the face with the cool inquisitiveness of science it is not likely to be laid. The value of Prof. Thompson's book lies in its serious effort to reach dispassionate objectivity, through all the din of noisy jingoes and even more vociferous pacifists.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

SOCIOLOGY AND SIN—P. Sargent Florence—*Norton* (\$1). Expounds logically the weak points in the present moralistic attitude toward social progress and advocates a scientific method in the social sciences.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

CRIMINOLOGY—Horace Wyndham—*Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith* (\$1.50). A prominent English writer discusses in a small and readable volume a big problem. One of his conclusions is: "The death penalty fails utterly in its purpose. It does not stop murders."

Criminology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

THE POLICE AND THE CRIME PROBLEM—Thorsten Sellin—*American Academy of Political and Social Science* (\$2). This volume, published as part of the Annals of the American Academy of Political Science, contains a wealth of material on police organization and administration, and the tools and the technique of criminal investigation. It represents the work of twenty-seven experts in the field. According to the editor, the volume has as its primary purpose to "give a wide circle of intelligent readers a conception of the problems which face the police and of the handicaps which the latter must face in solving them."

Criminology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

THE EXPERT—Oscar C. Mueller—*Saturday Night Publishing Co.* (\$1.50). An interesting and entertaining little volume pleading for the adoption of a statute throughout America to regulate expert testimony. The author quotes many legal opinions to the effect that "experts" should be provided by the court, not hired by counsel.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

INCOMES AND LIVING COSTS OF A UNIVERSITY FACULTY—Edited by Yandell Henderson and Maurice R. Davie—*Yale University Press* (\$2). Can a professor afford a car? How much should he pay? Can an assistant professor afford a baby? How many? These and other questions highly pertinent to the physical and mental comfort of faculty members, which must be answered if American colleges and universities are to continue to function, are here discussed fully and dispassionately. The book is a necessity for presidents, deans, trustees, regents and all others whose job it is to see "that the faculty are well fed." It will be worth a perusal also by candidates for graduate degrees.

Economics

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

FRANKLIN—Bernard Fay—*Little, Brown* (\$3). Those whose interest in Franklin has centered upon his scientific work, will find this extensive biography profitable and entertaining recreational reading. It is based on original material and written by a Frenchman who has served both French and American colleges as professor.

Biography

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

DUST TO LIFE—B. T. Thom—*Dutton* (\$5). This book presents in clear, readable, straightforward fashion the main outlines of the story of cosmogenesis and evolution, giving especial emphasis to the story of the dinosaurs and the development of the mammals. Some of the author's statements, however, are a trifle broad: e.g., his declaration that a dinosaur took to the trees and became a mammal. He also describes and illustrates some of the early hominoid primates, especially *Pithecanthropus* and *Eoanthropos*, with rather more confidence than present data would justify.

Evolution

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

A REVISION OF THE GENUS GORILLA—H. J. Coolidge, Jr.—*Harvard Mus. Comp. Zool.* (\$5). After a thorough review of the literature and a painstaking examination of much skeletal material, Mr. Coolidge's verdict is that the genus is monotypic, the one species being *G. gorilla*, with two distinct varieties, *gorilla*, of the coastal region, and *beringei*, of the interior mountains.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

TRUE NATURE STORIES—A. E. Verrill—*Badger* (\$2). A book of animal lore, from mammals down to fishes, for boy scouts and other boys.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

MY TROPICAL AIR CASTLE—Frank M. Chapman—*Appleton* (\$5). Dr. Chapman writes with vividness and charm, as he well knows how, about the birds and beasts that have been penned up by the waters of Gatun lake on that new paradise of naturalists, Barro Colorado island.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

THE LIFE OF THE CELL—D. L. Thomson—*Holt* (\$1.25). This newest volume of the Home University Library gives in brief compass an up-to-date presentation of cytology, stressing the dynamics of cell chemistry and cell life history.

Cytology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929

ELEMENTS OF GEOLOGY—W. H. Norton—*Ginn* (\$2.20). A new edition of a text which has already passed through two successful printings.

Geology

Science News-Letter, December 7, 1929