

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

**THE SIZE OF THE UNIVERSE**—Ludwik Silberstein—*Oxford Press*—215 pp., \$3.50. Much research of today is directed toward obtaining a true picture of the universe. Dr. Silberstein is an authority in the newer developments of theoretical physics and astronomy and this contribution to the determination of the invariant curvature radius of spacetime will therefore take its place alongside his other contributions to the particular sector of science in which he works. Dr. Silberstein gives 3 to 4.10 raised to the eleventh power astronomical units as the best value of the curvature radius, a value about one-eighteenth that derived from data based on measurements of globular clusters and Magellanic clouds.

*Cosmology*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**OUTLINES OF MODERN BIOLOGY**—C. R. Plunkett—*Holt*, 711 pp., \$4. This is a comprehensive and well-balanced textbook adapted for general college courses offered to adequately prepared students. It is not open to the criticisms leveled at many general biology texts, that the basis is almost wholly in animal biology, for the author has taken pains to give the main facts of plant physiology and anatomy the same emphasis and development that he gives to the facts about animal life.

*Biology*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**X-RAYS**—B. L. Worsnop—*Dutton*—101 pp., \$1.10. A concise review "not addressed to the specialist, but rather to those who have a scientific training and a wish to have a statement of the present position in X-rays." Written by the lecturer in physics at King's College, London.

*Physics*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**THE WORST JOURNEY IN THE WORLD**—Apsley Cherry-Garrard—*Lincoln MacVeagh*, 585 pp., \$5. The Antarctic is again at the forefront of polar exploration on account of the exploits of Byrd, Wilkins and their associates. This narrative of Scott's last expedition from its departure from England in 1910 to its return to New Zealand in 1913, now published in America for the first time, will make interesting reading. Here is the story of polar exploration as it was before the introduction of the airplane.

*Antarctic Exploration*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD**—Edgar James Swift—*Appleton*, 431 pp., \$3. This might be called a psychology of parents, as well as of childhood, for there is a good deal in it, both directly and indirectly expressed, about the attitude of the adult affecting the child. Fathers and mothers, for whom the book is chiefly intended, will find the psychology presented very intelligibly, without technical detours, and they will find a good many useful rules of practice that they can apply to their households, and to themselves.

*Psychology*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AMERICAN BUSINESS**—Saul G. Bron—*Liveright*, 147 pp., \$1.50. No experiment in economics is creating more interest and conflict of opinion than that now in progress in the realm of the Soviets. The 5-year plan of the Soviet Union contemplates a widespread reorganization and modernization of Russian industry. This book, written by the former chairman of the board of directors of the Amtorg Trading Corporation, the Soviet buying agency in this country, reports the first year's results under the 5-year plan. An appendix giving the terms of foreign concessions and listing the technical assistance that American firms and engineers are rendering Soviet organizations makes interesting reading.

*Economics*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF ANIMAL PARASITES**—W. A. Riley and R. O. Christenson—*McGraw-Hill*, 131 pp., \$1.50. A compact book giving the main facts about the types of protozoa, worms and other pests that make our lives miserable or our deaths sure. It should be very useful in the preparation of physicians and public health workers, and as a *vade-mecum* after they have entered upon their work.

*Parasitology*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**CAPTAIN SCOTT**—Stephen Gwynn—*Harper & Brothers*—239 pp., \$4. Scott, the human being, rather than Scott, the explorer, is the subject of this biography. Great men are often best revealed by their letters and it is largely through the quotation of many of Scott's letters and reports that his life and achievements are portrayed.

*Biography—Exploration*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY AND WIRING**—James A. Moyer and John F. Wostrel—*McGraw-Hill*, 469 pp., \$2.75. Although intended as a textbook or a volume to be read by electrical students, those whose electrical activities do not extend further than the replacement of fuses and burnt out lamps will find within its pages explanation of the why and how of wiring and lighting.

*Electricity*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**PLANT BIOLOGY**—H. Godwin—*Macmillan*, 265 pp., \$2.90. This textbook by a leading British author is a good example of the present trend in the presentation of biology from the physiological standpoint, replacing the heavy stress on morphology that prevailed some years ago. The author gives rather more space to the physiology of the lower plant phyla than is usually devoted to this subject in a book of this type.

*Biology*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**A HISTORY OF THE JEWS**—Paul Goodman—*Dutton*, 466 pp., \$1.50. A new edition of a popular condensed history of the Jews, which will repay reading by Gentiles as well as by those for whom it was primarily written.

*History*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**AN INTRODUCTION TO CHILD STUDY**—Ruth Strang—*Macmillan*, 550 pp., \$2.75. Explains in very simple fashion normal child development from infancy to adolescence, and offers practical suggestions for use in studying and guiding children in home or school. The plan of the book makes it suitable for parents or teachers who wish to become acquainted with the progressive steps in child study, and also for group study, as in parents' clubs, county demonstration groups, and high school home economics classes.

*Psychology—Education*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*

**GREEN MAGIC**—Julie Closson Kenly—*Appleton*, 194 pp., 92c. A breezily written book on the elements of botany, aimed at the grammar-school level. Grown-ups may find it entertaining, however, as well as a source of information for the satisfaction of the insatiable curiosity of small pupils in their own family circles.

*Botany*

*Science News-Letter, May 24, 1930*