

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

SHORT TALKS ON SCIENCE—Edwin E. Slosson—*Century*, 281 p., \$2. The marvel of science now allows those who have passed from the scenes of our daily life to talk to us from the motion-picture screen. As marvelous are books, created by centuries of writers, who with libraries as their rostrum can talk to us through the medium of cellulose and carbon. If a great man has done his work well, if he has left in the libraries of the world the essence of his contributions to civilization, then he will live forever in his influence on the millions unborn when he was alive.

No man has done more toward instilling in the layman an appreciation and understanding of science than Dr. Edwin E. Slosson. Through his numerous books, "Creative Chemistry," "Chats on Science," "Snapshots of Science," and others, he will continue to entertain and incidentally teach the multitudes.

With the idea of projecting his influence forward in time, now that he himself cannot do it, the writings that occupied much of his efforts for the last year of his life are gathered together in book form.

Working with Dr. Slosson in the upbuilding of Science Service to its present important position in science and journalism was a privilege and pleasure. His memory can best be honored by resolving that the great work to which he devoted the last decade of his life shall continue with the vigor and effectiveness that he would have wished.—Extract from the preface.

General Science
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

THE ART AND RELIGION OF FOSSIL MAN—G. H. Luquet, translated by J. Townsend Russell, Jr.—*Yale Univ. Press*, 213 p., \$5. The cave paintings, carved Venuses, and other art works of the Old Stone Age are of great significance in showing the mental, emotional, and aesthetic state of men in that age. This work by a French philosopher and anthropologist contains a lavish collection of the famous examples of art from Spain and France and many less familiar specimens as well. The text describes and comments on these exhibits, explaining also M. Luquet's views on the origins of art and the functions which the engravings, paintings, and carvings served.

Archaeology
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

WIDER HORIZONS—Herbert Adams Gibbons—*Century*, 402 p., \$3. This is a significant book because a well-equipped expert on current history sees through the veil of obscuring politics. As he expresses it: "Generals and statesmen, wars and international conferences, treaties and violations of treaties, new political institutions and boundary lines of recent creation in many countries, no longer loomed as the controlling influences in international relations." He writes not of government and the stuff of which history has been previously composed but of new measurements of time and space, new forms of motive power, the happier and more efficient world in which we live, cultural migration, growth and distribution of the human race, etc. Dr. Gibbons joins the scientific advance.

History
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

BOYS' BOOK OF EXPLORATION—J. Harris Gable—*Dutton*, 435 p., \$5. Youths, thirsty for knowledge and eager to carry on their own exploration for information, will find here the story of the discovery of the world as it was accomplished by the great explorers of the past and the present.

Geography
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

THE WORLD, THE AIR AND THE FUTURE—Commander Sir Dennis Burney—*Knopf*, 357 p., 21s. The designer and constructor of the British airship R-100 surveys in this timely book the problems of aviation, with special consideration of airships and their relation to the problems of Great Britain. Commander Burney's discussion of the political and international aspects of airships holds that the development of civil aviation will help to build an international world order and bring about a United States of Europe and a unification of the Atlantic peoples.

Aeronautics
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

A SERIES OF EIGHT RADIO TALKS ON THE FAMILY—Manuel C. Elmer—*Univ. of Pittsburgh*, 73 p., 60c. Families, past and present, even future, are brought under the microscope in these radio talks. "Problem Parents and Problem Children" and "The Family Does Not Live on Bread Alone" are two of the especially thought-provoking topics of the series.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

ENERGY—Sir Oliver Lodge—*Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith*, 124 p., 60c. Energy is fundamental to the maintenance of the universe as well as modern civilization. It is but natural therefore that this small lucid explanation by a great personality in physics should give to the reader a new insight into the fundamentals of the present revolution in civilization.

Physics
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

TWO POLAR MAPS WITH TEXT—W. L. G. Joerg—*American Geographical Society*, 49 p., \$5. Exploration by flying has so changed the aspects of the Polar region in the last few years that these two authoritative maps together with a brief history of Polar exploration since the introduction of flying by W. L. G. Joerg will be welcomed by all who desire to have accurate and concise current information on the two ends of the earth. Happily the maps are so cased that they may take a place among the books on a library shelf.

Geography
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

THE GREAT ASTRONOMERS—Henry Smith Williams—*Simon and Schuster*, 618 p., \$6. From Eratosthenes to Shapley the great investigators of the universe are paraded in these pages for the enlightenment of non-scientific readers. Readable though it is, its workmanship is scholarly. The author's own sketches which are used nearly exclusively as illustrations are particularly effective when he presents composite pictures of great astronomers whose conventional portraits do not always agree. This book is not primarily about the stars themselves but about the procession of geniuses who have discovered mankind's place in the far-flung heavens.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930

A CALENDAR OF DOUBTS AND FAITHS—William Marias Malisoff—*Watt*, 359 p., \$2.50. Those who like to reflect on the conflicts and coincidences in philosophies of science, religion, and art will be interested in Dr. Malisoff's keen analysis. Those who have never done much thinking on the subject will find here a sound starting point for their own speculations on themselves and the world they live in.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, June 21, 1930