

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

A GERMAN-ENGLISH TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DICTIONARY—A. Webel—Dutton, 887 p., \$10.50. If there is any truth in the claim that good wares sell themselves, then in a few months this book will be in every science department in our colleges and universities, on the desks of all the charitable language professors who offer courses in scientific German for struggling graduate students, in the cubicles of all such graduates as can possibly afford it, and on library shelves of every description. This dictionary works in only one direction, from German to English; but that is the way most of us want to go. It contains most of the German words found in ordinary translation-dictionaries, plus thousands of scientific terms found nowhere else: *Pecheisenerz*, for example, and *Relaissschaltung*, *Schwefelweinsäure* and *Zauberwurzel*. Every German chemical name has its formula appended, as well as its English translation, and every German common name of a plant is followed by the botanical as well as the English common name. In addition there is a special botanical section of 142 pages, listing the Latin names of plants alphabetically and giving with each its common German and English names. There is also a 13-page section listing all those German abbreviations that we often find troublesome, like *a.a.O.*, *Erg.-Bd.*, *m.b.H.*, *u.s.w.*

General Science

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

EXPLORING FOR PLANTS—David Fairchild—Macmillan, 591 p., \$5. Ever since venturesome Greeks pulled galley oars seeking the golden apples of the Hesperides, there have been men whose desire of the eye and of the lips has been for new trees and strange fruits. Of this ageless company David Fairchild is a past and accepted fellow. He has ranged through the earth, very literally from China to Peru, always bringing or shipping home his living loot to the gardens of his native land. Herein he tells tales of his wanderings so that we may share with him some of the thrill of discovery. Later we shall probably eat, wear or use some of the things he has sent home for our benefit.

Botany

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY—Bertrand Lyon—Lothrop, Lee, and Shepard, 252 p., \$2.50. A sensible book is this which harps on no one "system" of memory training but stresses various psychological principles. The book becomes a memory course in itself, for at the end of each chapter the reader is faced with questions about the chapter and about other matters, which he can answer and thus check up on the state of his own memory. Presumably, if he keeps a notebook as advised and follows up the suggestions in the book, he should be able to report to himself improvement in his memory as he advances from chapter to chapter.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

TOMORROW'S AMERICANS—A. O. Bowden and Ida Clyde Clarke—Putnam, 200 p., \$2. The authors advocate student self-government, stressing why and how self-government serves to prepare the younger generation for citizenship. In explaining how self-government may be practically established, various objections are answered and specific plans which may be put into operation are presented.

Education

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

AN INTRODUCTION TO VERTEBRATE EMBRYOLOGY—H. L. Wieman—McGraw-Hill, 411 p., \$4. All who aspire to the medical profession must study embryology as a matter of working equipment. All other educated persons should study it as an obedience to the ancient command, "Know thyself." Although this new text book is entering a field already fairly well occupied, it will find a place for itself because the author knows how to present his facts in clear and straightforward fashion and how to illustrate them with simple diagrammatic drawings.

Embryology

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

COLLEGE TEXTBOOK OF GEOLOGY: PART II: HISTORICAL GEOLOGY—Thomas C. Chamberlin and Rollin D. Salisbury—Holt, 525 p., \$3.75. A revision of one of the classics of American geology, by R. T. Chamberlin and Paul MacClintock.

Geology

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

MACHU PICCHU—Hirman Bingham—Yale Univ. Press, 244 p., \$50. "It seems probable, therefore," writes Dr. Bingham toward the close of this book, "that at Machu Picchu we have not only the ruins of Tampu-tocco, the cradle of the Incas, the birthplace of Manco Ccapac, the first Cuzco Inca, but also the ruins of Uillcampa, the sacred city of the last Cuzco Inca, the 'university of idolatry,' and the home of a considerable number of the Virgins of the Sun and attendant priests." These conclusions as to the significance of Machu Picchu are reached as a result of discoveries made in expeditions of 1911, 1912, and 1915, which the author directed for Yale University and the National Geographic Society. Dr. Bingham considers that his finds bear out and dovetail with some of the statements by Montesinos, a seventeenth century chronicler whose version of affairs in ancient Peru has been generally regarded as of doubtful value. Before Dr. Bingham's concluding chapter on the builders of Machu Picchu, he sets forth a sober and impressive recounting of the discoveries won by his Peruvian expeditions. There are chapters on the Andean highlands with special reference to the Incan roads and chapters on architecture, pottery, burials, and metallurgy.

Archaeology

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

AMERICAN AIRPORT DESIGNS—Lehigh Portland Cement Company—Taylor, Rogers & Bliss, 96 p. \$3. With some 3,000 airports building or planned, the construction of these terminals of the latest transportation method promises to be a major building activity during the next few years. The designs of the Lehigh Airports Competition will furnish many suggestions to the architects and constructors who must solve the problem of providing airplanes with proper resting places.

Aeronautics—Architecture

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

MAGICIAN AND LEECH—Warren R. Dawson—Methuen, 160 p., 7 s., 6 d. A concise but comprehensive account of ancient Egyptian medicine written after a study of the original texts, the famous medical papyri.

History of Medicine

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930