

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

MENTAL RADIO—Upton Sinclair—*Author*, 239 p., \$3. The versatile Mr. Sinclair has gone in for mental telepathy with his wife who claims to have a gift for it. This book gives an account of their experiments and methods and is entertaining, regardless of whether one agrees with the Sinclairs or not. The introduction by Dr. William McDougall, professor of psychology at Duke University, will give the reader an indication of the scientific value and possibilities of the book.

Psychic Research
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

THE UNREALISTS—Harvey Wickham — *Lincoln MacVeagh*, 314 p., \$3.50. Attacks upon "the generals of modernistic thought." The author does not agree with James, Bergson, Santayana, Einstein, Bertrand Russell, John Dewey, Alexander and Whitehead.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

OCEANIA—Australian National Research Council—*Macmillan and Co., Ltd., Melbourne*, 128 p., 7s., 6d. This is volume one number one of a new journal devoted to the study of the native peoples of Australia, New Guinea and the islands of the Pacific. It provides a medium for the publication of the results of the researches in that field carried out under the auspices of the Australian National Research Council made with the aid of grants from the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, which duplicated the amount provided in Australia itself for these studies. An editorial in the new journal says: "These investigations are perhaps not of any immediate practical use, for the Australian aborigines, even if not doomed to extinction as a race, seem at any rate doomed to have their cultures destroyed. But they will provide data of the very greatest importance for a comparative science of culture. A real understanding of civilization will only be attained by comparison of as many diverse types as possible. Australia presents a primitive but highly specialized culture of one general type throughout the continent, but showing a great number of local variations. A

systematic study of these variations can give us results that may fairly be compared with those obtained in other sciences by the experimental method. The study of Australian social organization, besides its great value for the science as a whole, is also likely to be of help by throwing some light on the problems of New Guinea. Recent investigations have done much to confirm the view that there is an intimate relation between the cultures of New Guinea and Melanesia and that of Australia. Unfortunately many Australian tribes have already disappeared, and it is now forever impossible to discover anything about them. Many more are approaching extinction or are rapidly losing all memory of their former customs and even language. Whatever studies are to be made of the Australian natives must be completed within the next few years."

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

THE ORGANIZATION OF A RURAL TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE—Stephen A. Douglass—*Milbank Memorial Fund*, 86 p. Limited quantities available for gratis distribution. An account of the work under the first comprehensive rural program for the control of tuberculosis in New York State. The demonstration made in Cattaraugus county, is one unit of the New York Health Demonstrations to which the Milbank Memorial Fund has made appropriations. The report will be useful to other rural communities and those engaged in tuberculosis control work in them.

Public Health
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

THE SCIENCE OF BIOLOGY—George G. Scott—*Crowell*, 633 p., \$3.75. Second revised edition of an introductory text. The author maintains that the more important biologic problems cannot be well appreciated without a background of simpler, more general problems. Consequently the first two parts still present the biology of plants and of animals as a whole. The last part has been enlarged and includes the discussion of the cell and of protoplasm. The many illustrations are made clearer by direct labeling of each figure.

Biology
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

WEATHER AND HEALTH—Ellsworth Huntington—*National Research Council*, 161 p., \$2. The ever-fascinating problem of the relation of the weather to man's health is here considered from a study of daily mortality in New York City. The monograph forms Bulletin 75 of the National Research Council's series. It was prepared under the direction and with the advice of the committee on the atmosphere and man, division of geology and agriculture, National Research Council.

Meteorology—Health
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

GROWING STRAIGHT—Maud Smith Williams—*Barnes*, 137 p., \$2. A system of physical education with mental control based on methods of the North American Indians. The author states that she has learned these methods from the Indian sages and medicine men. It seems at least doubtful whether the Indians have rationalized their exercises and physical training to the extent given in this book. The exercises do not appear to be new, but the Indian treatment may give them fresh popularity, particularly with children. One hundred and thirteen exercises are given and one wonders whether this large number may not dampen the beginner's enthusiasm.

Physical Education
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

INTRODUCTORY ECONOMIC GEOLOGY—W. A. Tarr—*McGraw-Hill*, 664 p., \$5. A new textbook on economic geology presenting a great mass of well-selected material, arranged under the group heads History and Origin, Metallic Materials and Non-Metallic Materials. The presentation is terse, business-like and readable, and the illustrations either diagrams or drawings of diagrammatic economy and clearness.

Geology
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930

CHEMISTRY FOR TODAY—McPherson, Henderson and Fowler—*Ginn*, 588 p., \$1.80. A textbook for secondary schools which seems to keep modern practical applications of chemistry well to the fore, although the first chapter is about alchemy, and the historic facts are not slighted.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, August 23, 1930