

# • First Glances at New Books

## Chemistry

**CREATIVE CHEMISTRY**—Edwin E. Slosson—*Century*, 341 p., \$3.50. Creative Chemistry has done more than any other one book to interpret and popularize chemistry. This revised edition, completed by Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, from material and notes left by Dr. Slosson at the time of his death last year, will therefore be welcomed not only by the thousands who read the first edition but by thousands of a new generation. Prof. Julius Stieglitz of the University of Chicago, in his introduction to this edition, says: "The man to whom more than to any other single individual this country owes its awakening to the almost infinite beneficent possibilities of the science of chemistry is the late Edwin E. Slosson. His *Creative Chemistry* has educated our whole people."

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Philosophy

**OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER MINDS**—W. Wylie Spencer—*Yale University Press*, 145 p., \$2. A carefully developed essay on one of the basic problems of philosophy. The idea on which the author bases his argument is that "the more concrete and specific is our understanding of the nature and vital activities of mind the more possible it becomes to render the existence of other minds capable of proof, and likewise the more intimate our contacts with other persons the better we are able to know them as minds."

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Astronomical Fantasy

**THE MAGIC UNIVERSE**—Mary Graham Bonner—*Macaulay*, 250 p., \$2.50. "Not one grain of the dust of scholarship can be detected in it," say the publishers of this book in a "blurb" accompanying it. That is quite correct. Scholarship has been thrown to the winds, and the result is a sort of fairy tale which may be rather amusing to young children, but it is doubtful whether they will know much more about astronomy after reading it than when they began. The cartoons which "illustrate" it (one shows Saturn smoking a pipe) are also mildly entertaining, but it would have been much better to have substituted, for some of

them at least, a few pictures showing what the celestial objects referred to actually look like. Perhaps no astronomer could have been induced to wade through it, but if one had, he might have caught some of the scientific errors that occur, such as the reference to the moon always keeping the same face to the sun, to the photosphere (the outer layer of the sun) as an instrument, or to the Orion nebula as being outside the galaxy.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Natural History

**ANIMAL CHILDREN**—Paul Eipper—*Viking*, 70 p., \$2. A book written by a lover of animals—one who has watched them quietly, "hardly daring to breathe" in order to obtain the charming photographs which illustrate the volume and the intimate details of animal child life which make up the text. Anyone who has had the pleasure of reading the author's "Animals Looking at You" will welcome this new creation from his pen and from the camera of his associate, Hedda Walther.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Child Study

**HUMAN CHILDREN**—Paul Eipper—*Viking*, 70 p., \$2. The charming and most unusual photographs from the camera of Hedda Walther are in complete harmony with the poetic character of the text. The author is a sympathetic father as well as a wise student of youthful human nature. This delightful book is a companion volume to the author's "Animal Children."

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Genetics

**THE GENETICS OF DOMESTIC RABBITS**—W. E. Castle—*Harvard University Press*, 31 p., \$1.25. A book which will be of interest to the geneticist and of practical use to the breeder of rabbits and the fur farmer. Illustrated with 39 plates.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Pathology

**THE PATHOLOGY OF DIABETES MELITUS**—Shields Warren—*Lea and Febiger*, 212 p., \$3.75. A valuable and important book for the physician and medical student. Not for lay readers.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Archaeology-History

**MESOPOTAMIAN ORIGINS**—Ephraim A. Speiser—*University of Pennsylvania Press*, 198 p., \$3. In this book Professor Speiser advances a new theory regarding the founders of the great civilizations of the Near East, and he builds up his case with due scholarly hesitation but very convincingly. His view is that aside from the Semitic and Sumerian elements, most of the peoples of Mesopotamia, hitherto unclassified, can be organized into a single, inter-related group, and for these he accepts the suggested name Japhethites. The earliest civilizations between the Tigris and the Euphrates are traced to their efforts. Professor Speiser brings three lines of evidence to a focus on his subject—evidence from archaeology, languages, and historical records. The style is sufficiently non-technical so that the layman who is really interested can read and learn, and at the same time the student of Old World civilizations will find the book documented to his taste.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Physics

**PHYSICS**—Herbert Brownell—*Winston*, 644 p., \$1.64. Here is a new and well-written physics text for high schools that should be popular with student and teacher alike. It is entirely up-to-date, devoting space to such modern physical developments as television, talking movies, electric refrigeration, the autogiro and others. These should make it interesting to the student and at the same time the well-planned exercises aid the teacher.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*

## Vocational Guidance

**A SOURCE BOOK FOR VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE**—Edna E. Watson—*Wilson*, 241 p., \$2.25. Intended as a reference book for the counselor of youth. The first part of the volume contains inspirational material including the inevitable "It Can Be Done" and another "If" parody. For the rest, there are references to biographies, magazine articles, and other literature pertinent to various occupations, and some good advice in informal letter style.

*Science News Letter, November 15, 1930*