

• First Glances at New Books

Physics

GENERAL PHYSICS—Wm. S. Franklin & G. E. Grantham—*Franklin and Charles*, 705 p., \$4. In this really admirable college text on physics, the authors have produced a work that should well succeed in their avowed purpose. This, they say, is to develop in the student's mind the logical structure, to train him in the use of instruments and the performance of ordered operations and to exercise him in "the application of these things to the phenomena of physics and chemistry at every step and all the time, with every possible variation." The problems are of particular interest, treating largely of actual scientific applications of the principles involved. A number of brief essays on physical topics scattered throughout the text give a spice to the whole.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Medicine

TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY—Fritz B. Talbot—*Macmillan*, 308 p., \$4. A concise review of present knowledge of a subject which has experienced recently a considerable revival of interest. Dr. Talbot describes both the ketogenic and dehydration methods of treatment. The book is for physicians, who will undoubtedly welcome it.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Evolution

SONS OF THE EARTH—Kirtley F. Mather—*Norton*, 272 p., \$3. Professor Mather has built himself a considerable reputation not only as a hardworking professional geologist but as a leading figure in the new humanism of science. This book carries on the good work, and will enhance his reputation in that field.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Botany—Horticulture

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF PLANTS CULTIVATED IN SANTA BARBARA: CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS—Ralph Hoffman, E. C. Orpet, Eric Walther and James West, edited by Pearl Chase—*Garden Tours Committee, Santa Barbara*, 107 p., \$1.06. Other communities where the gardening spirit is well developed would do well to follow the lead set by Santa Barbara in making available for their citizens and for interested visitors such keys to the growing things to be found within their gates.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Entomology

THE LIFE OF THE ANT—Maurice Maeterlinck—*John Day*, 282 p., \$2.50. The cover-jacket announces this as "A work to stand beside *The Life of the Bee*"; it is just that. It is a litterateur's venture into entomology: a moderate amount of fact embellished with literary figure until it fairly scintillates. Often the author's enthusiasm leads him into anthropomorphisms to which we are all prone unless we watch ourselves, when we are dealing with the acts of other organisms. It should by all means be read, for it will give delight; but it should be read with a soberer book about insects always at the elbow.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Entomology

ANTS—Julian Huxley—*Cape and Smith*, 113 p., \$1.50. Julian Huxley has an advantage over Maeterlinck, who writes on the same subject. Mr. Huxley was born to a tradition of first-hand scientific research as well as vivid and convincing presentation, and in this small book he remains true to that tradition. He has enthusiasm, but his enthusiasm never betrays him out of the scientific state of mind. He has command of facts, and his enthusiasm serves as a leaven to prevent them from becoming lumped-up and heavy.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Entomology

DEMONS OF THE DUST—William Morton Wheeler—*Norton*, 378 p., \$5. We have here a book by a veteran entomologist who has achieved a distinctive, even a distinguished, literary style. This account of predatory insects that lurk in the earth is packed with facts, but they are not dry facts. The ant-lion is made as vivid as *Felis leo*, and even more ferocious. The whole book is at once a contribution to exact knowledge and to good literature.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Physics

THE NEW PHYSICS IN EVERYDAY LIFE—William D. Henderson—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 793 p., \$1.60. In this rather bulky high school text on physics the author has covered the essentials of physics with special reference to their applications. Thus it should arouse particular interest in the student, and this in turn is a help to the teacher.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Plant Physiology

THE GREEN LEAF—D. T. MacDougal—*Appleton*, 142 p., \$2. A veteran of American plant physiology here undertakes to give the general reader an understandable account of the basically vital processes that go on in the green leaves of plants. He succeeds in making those laboratories where all the food of the world is manufactured as much of an open mystery to his readers as would be the aisles of a packing-house or cereal mill through which they might be personally conducted. To this end the cleverly graphic illustrations contribute quite as much as the vivid text. The book is one of the Appleton New World of Science series edited by Watson Davis.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Geology

CHAPTERS ON THE GEOLOGY OF SCOTLAND—B. N. Peach and John Horne—*Oxford University Press*, 232 p., \$3.50. There is more geology per square mile in the British Isles than is to be found anywhere else in the world, and the rich complexity of the formations rises to a climax in Scotland, where the late Doctors Peach and Horne did their work. This volume forms a worthy monument to their memory.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Ornithology

TO AFRICA WITH THE MIGRATING BIRDS—Bengt Berg—*Puinam's*, 274 p., \$5. A noted Swedish naturalist tells of his ornithological travels most delightfully, and illustrates his pages with superb photographs obtained at the cost of many hours of cramped and water-soaked waiting. To read is to share his enthusiasm, and to be inspired to go and do in like manner.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1931

Protozoology

PROBLEMS AND METHODS OF RESEARCH IN PROTOZOLOGY—Edited by Robert Hegner and Justin Andrews—*Macmillan*, 532 p., \$5.50. This book is a symposium, its list of contributors including, besides the editors, such well-known names as Kofoid, Metcalf and Talliaferro. It will give the graduate student about to choose his road, and to the teacher who must direct him therein, a mine of useful information and fruitful suggestion.

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