

• First Glances at New Books

Biography

ALBERT EINSTEIN—Anton Reiser—*Boni*, 225 p., \$2.50. With the author of the theory of relativity now in the United States, this biography is especially timely. It is interestingly written, and bears the stamp of approval of the leading authority on Einstein, that is, Einstein. In a foreword he says, in part, "The author . . . knows me rather intimately . . . I have found the facts of the book duly accurate, and its characterization, throughout, as good as might be expected of one who is perforce himself, and who can be no more another than I can. What has perhaps been overlooked is the irrational, the inconsistent, the droll, even the insane, which nature, inexhaustibly operative, implants in an individual, seemingly for her own amusement." The lack of an index is a defect that should be remedied before a new edition appears.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Education

STANDARD GRADUATION EXAMINATION—Arthur S. Otis and J. S. Orleans—*World Book Company*, \$1.25 per 25. A final examination in all subjects of elementary schools. A new form will be issued each spring and kept secret until that time. Orders accepted only from school officials, who will welcome this standard test as a practical aid.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Engineering—Public Health

FURTHER STUDIES OF EUROPEAN METHODS OF STREET CLEANING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL, WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW YORK—George A. Soper—*New York Academy of Medicine*, 39 p., Free. America can take lessons from the scavenging methods described.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Ethnology

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY, 1927-1928—U. S. *Government Printing Office*, 857 p., \$2.35. Following a brief reporting of the activities of the Bureau, this volume contains four papers. "The Salishan Tribes of the Western Plateaus," by James A. Teit is a comprehensive account covering almost 400 pages. "Tattooing and Face and Body Painting of the Thompson Indians, British Columbia" by the same author, follows. The other two are "The Ethnobotany of the Thompson Indians of British Columbia" by Elsie Viault

Steedman, and "The Osage Tribe: Rite of the Wa-xó-be" by Francis La Flesche. Drawings, photographs and musical scores add to the value of the publication. The painted body designs are in color.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Sociology

CHRONOS OR THE FUTURE OF THE FAMILY—Eden Paul—*Kegan Paul, Trench, Trabner & Co.*, 57 p., 2 s 6p. Another of the readable and thought-provoking "Today and Tomorrow" series which was led by "Daedalus" and "Icarus." The author predicts the final decay of the family and the substitution of homes to which children may be sent to be presided over by persons with a special talent for parenthood.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Chemistry

THE SPIRIT OF CHEMISTRY—Alexander Findlay—*Longmans, Green*, 480 p., \$3.75. This textbook for students who pursue a course in chemistry as an element of general culture rather than professional training, evidences a typically British insight into the history of the science. Nevertheless, it does not neglect its industrial applications.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Miscellany

POPULAR QUESTIONS ANSWERED—G. W. Stimpson—*Sully*, 426 p., \$2. A miscellaneous compendium of information on a vast variety of topics.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Physics

DIGEST OF PHYSICS—G. L. Fletcher and J. L. Basseches—*Globe*, 244 p., 67c. A summary of elementary physics that will be useful for the student preparing for an examination. Specimen college entrance board examination questions are given at the end.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Zoology

NEW AND OLD LAND SHELLS FROM THE ISLAND OF LUZON, PHILIPPINES—Paul Bartsch—*Smithsonian Institution*, 20 p., 9 pl. Of interest to systematic conchologists.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Biology

LABORATORY MANUAL OF GENERAL BIOLOGY—George G. Scott—*Crowell*, 125 p., \$1. A new and revised edition.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Aviation

THE AVIATION INDUSTRY—*Curtis Publishing Co.*, 176 p., Free. An illuminating study of the aviation industry made by the division of commercial research of the Curtis Publishing Company. A tri-motored plane was purchased and representatives flew more than 20,000 miles in obtaining material for this report on the past, present and future of flying.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Astronomy

FLIGHTS FROM CHAOS—Harlow Shapley—*Whittlesey*, 168 p., \$2.50. The distinguished director of the Harvard College Observatory presents in book form the substance of a series of lectures he gave a little over a year ago in New York City. Of particular interest is his classification of material systems from the light quanta and electrons up to the entire universe of space-time itself. A large amount of space is devoted to the "cosmoplasma," the stuff between the stars.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Standardization

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NON-METALLIC MINERALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS—Bureau of Standards—*Government Printing Office*, 680 p., \$2.75. Collected within this one volume are the scores of specifications under which billions of dollars' worth of materials are produced, sold and consumed. This publication is one of a series in which there are being brought together by the government the commodity standards of the nation.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Ornithology

BIRDS OF THE MARSHALL FIELD MUSEUM EXPEDITION, 1922-1923—John T. Zimmer—*Field Museum*, 480 p., \$1.50. A fully annotated list, of interest to systematic ornithologists.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1931

Chemistry

EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY—A. Frederick Collins—*Appleton*, 276 p., \$2. Inelegant and ungrammatical English is expected to convert into a popular introduction to science and technology of chemistry this book that is really only a poorly arranged laboratory manual. Titles of some of the illustrations: "Old Man Chlorine," "Sweet Mamma Iodine."

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