

• First Glances at New Books

Scientific Biography

CONTEMPORARY IMMORTALS—Archibald Henderson—*Appleton*, 209 p., \$2.50. "How shall we pass most swiftly from point to point, and be present always at the focus when the greatest number of vital forces unite in their finest energy? To burn always with this hard gem-like flame, to maintain this ecstasy"—that is genius. To the answering of this question, quoted from Pater in his preface, the author has devoted a series of twelve short biographies of great contemporary men in widely differing fields. Already well known for his full length biography of Bernard Shaw, this professor of mathematics at the University of North Carolina shows still further the quality of his mind by choosing for his studies Albert Einstein, Mahatma Ghandi, Thomas Edison, Benito Mussolini, G. B. Shaw, Guglielmo Marconi, Jane Addams, Orville Wright, Ignace Jan Paderewski, Marie Sklodowski Curie, Henry Ford and Rudyard Kipling. The book is uneven in merit but shows a penetrating understanding.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Travel

INDIA, LAND OF THE BLACK PAGODA—Lowell Thomas—*Century*, 350 p., \$4. Two years' wanderings in India, winding up at the best designed and most lewdly decorated of all the thousands of temples in that land of temples. Well written and well illustrated, and spiced, as all books about India seem bound to be, with strong opinion.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Mathematics

PLANE TRIGONOMETRY, WITH TABLES—W. W. Burton—*Crowell*, 218 p., \$2.50. A new textbook for college use. It really consists of two books, the second part, consisting of 93 pages of logarithmic and trigonometric tables, being paged separately.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Journalism

WRITING FOR PROFIT—Donald Wilhelm—*McGraw-Hill*, 385 p., \$3. Guidance in newspaper work, magazine writing and selling, interviewing, publicity, advertising, verse, fiction and radio broadcasting is given. The book was conceived and promoted by a group of experienced editors and authorities whose opinions and advice are quoted

liberally. The aptness of these citations compensates for the thinness with which such a large field is necessarily covered. Readers are not presumed to have college training. The proper kind of raw material should certainly profit from reading this book.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Bibliography

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF THE UNITED STATES—Bulletin of the National Research Council, Number 81, Fourth Edition—Clarence J. West and Callie Hull—*The National Research Council*, 267 p., \$2. A list of sixteen hundred laboratories gives one an astounding sense of the growth of research as a tool in industry. This represents a 60 per cent. increase over those listed in the 1927 edition. Even at that, laboratories connected with Federal, state or municipal governments, or with educational institutions have been excluded from this survey. The directors of research and their addresses are listed separately and occupy 42 pages of the Bulletin. The main list is alphabetical by name of company, but additional indices by states and laboratory activity are provided.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Engineering

CIVIL ENGINEERS' ENCYCLOPEDIA DICTIONARY—Robert E. Benson—*Benson Book Co.*, 127 p., \$2.50. A glossary of words, terms, and abbreviations pertaining to civil engineering and surveying, illustrated with symbols and lettering examples.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Physics

ELEMENTARY ELECTRICITY—Edgar P. Slack—*McGraw-Hill*, 278 p., \$2. For use in vocational and industrial schools by students who have not studied electricity before and whose mathematical training may not have gone beyond arithmetic. The treatment is based on modern electron theory and has a distinctly practical approach.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Travel

AMAZON AND ANDES—K. G. Grubb—*Dial Press*, 296 p., \$5. A copiously illustrated account of the author's travels and experiences in the savage parts of interior Brazil and among the peoples of the northern Andes.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Anthropology

PREHISTORIC MAN—George S. Duncan—*Stratford Co., Boston*, 143 p., \$2.50. A rapid-fire introduction to our forerunners on the earth. Dr. Duncan deals mostly in facts, interesting facts, the sort that the "average reader" finds surprising and illuminating. When a page or so of these essential facts have been presented on, let us say, prehistoric man's clothing, or his occupations, it is time for the next topic. The reader who has been introduced to prehistoric man by this little book will find his interest in the subject stimulated, rather than satiated.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Natural History

DWELLERS OF THE SILENCES—Alexander Sprunt, Jr.—*Dodd, Mead*, 345 p., \$2.50. Dramatic accounts of doings of birds and beasts of the wilderness. The author is past master of the difficult trick of individualizing his animals without personalizing them. The illustrations are by Charles Livingston Bull.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Zoology-Economics

FUR—Max Bachrach—*Prentice-Hall*, 677 p., \$6. This practical treatise gives adequate but non-technical natural history accounts of all the fur-bearing animals whose peltries figure in the trade, treats briefly of fur farming, and discusses the collecting, dressing and merchandising of furs. A special section on the microscopy of furs, with a large number of photomicrographs, will be useful not only to persons commercially interested in furs but to naturalists as well.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Psychology

THE QUESTIONED CHILD—Angelo Patri—*Appleton*, 221 p., \$2. Advice from an inspired teacher to other teachers, parents, and all who love children.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931

Language

A SUMMARY OF RECORDS ON THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES—Compiled by Robert Herndon Lee—*Macmillan*, 261 p., \$1. A summary issued by the Modern Foreign Language Study and the Canadian Committee on Modern Languages. It contains a general index to all the previous reports in the series to which it belongs.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1931