

# • First Glances at New Books

## Physics

**THE DYNAMIC UNIVERSE**—James Mackaye—*Scribner's*, 308 p., \$3.50. Here is someone with a good background of physics and mathematics who presumes to criticise Einstein's theory without supporting his argument with mathematics. "Despite the standing of the relativity theory in our day," says Mr. Mackaye, "few physicists pretend to understand it." Mr. Mackaye is one of those who decline to be mystified by the metaphysical legerdemain of relativity philosophers and brings forward arguments to show that the man in the street and the relativist are not really talking about the same thing.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## General Science

**THE STORY OF SCIENCE**—David Dietz—*Sears*, 387 p., \$3.50. One cannot learn all about science out of one book, as many persons now seem to imagine they can; but anyone desiring to get a first look at science in any of its many fields might very well begin with Mr. Dietz's book. He begins with cosmogony and astronomy and goes through in logical order to biology and psychology. Necessarily limited in its treatment of many subjects because of space considerations, the book nevertheless manages at least to touch on everything of importance in a general survey of science.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Psychology

**HUMAN LEARNING**—Edward L. Thorndike—*Century*, 206 p., \$2.25. Teachers and students, as well as psychologists, will welcome this collection of lectures on the learning process by an eminent psychologist. They contain a non-technical account of many interesting experiments.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Chemistry

**ANNUAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN CHEMISTRY, Vol. V, 1930**—Edited by Clarence J. West for the National Research Council—*Chemical Catalog*, 629 p., \$5. This fascinating technical survey of the great output of American chemists gives research workers a chance to catch up with what is going on in this science. "Chemical Abstracts" gets so bulky nowadays that a guide of this sort has become absolutely necessary. In accordance with an established policy there have been several changes this

year in the list of authors and a few changes in the list of topics. Any tendencies to unhealthy crystallization of the subject are thus avoided.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Physics

**INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES, Vol. VII**—National Research Council—*McGraw-Hill*, 507 p., \$12. With this volume, the monumental collection of the latest information on all available physical and chemical constants is complete. The National Research Council is to be congratulated on its energy in carrying through this enterprise, as it was at the outset on its initiative in undertaking it. The volume concludes with a complete list of periodicals and other sources referred to throughout the set, giving with each its key number.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Mineralogy

**DETERMINATION OF THE OPAQUE MINERALS**—C. Mason Farnham—*McGraw-Hill*, 236 p., \$3.50. A handbook on the identification of minerals that cannot be examined by transmitted light. It will be useful to economic geologists, mining and metallurgical engineers and other students of ore deposits.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Horticulture

**PERENNIAL GARDENS**—H. S. Ortloff—*Macmillan*, 88 p., \$1.25. A small handbook that will be very useful to the home gardener, telling how to arrange and maintain effective beds and borders of hardy perennials.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Entomology

**A TEXT BOOK OF AGRICULTURAL ENTOMOLOGY**—K. M. Smith—*Cambridge University Press*, 285 p., \$4.25. A text intended primarily for use in Britain, but of value for reference in any country. Clearly written and cleanly illustrated.

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## Engineering

**THE LIGHTING BOOK**—J. L. Starr—*Curtis Lighting, Inc.*, 316 p. Lighting problems of schools, auditoriums, libraries, banks, stores and other large interior spaces, floodlighting and other exterior effects, lighting fixtures, their design, arrangement and installation—all receive practical treatment in this well-illustrated book.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Chemistry

**MINERALS IN MODERN INDUSTRY**—W. H. Voskuil—*Wiley*, 350 p., \$3.75. Tells many things that the common man has wanted to know about the economics of coal, oil, gas, iron and other mineral products, particularly from the point of view of the United States. The discussion of these questions in technical works is usually all too brief. The present book should help to make chemists and engineers conscious of the social ramifications of their work and to make executives and laymen aware of the key position of chemical raw materials in modern industry.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Photography

**PHOTOGRAPHIC AMUSEMENTS**—F. R. Fraprie and W. E. Woodbury—*American Photographic Publishing Co.*, 271 p., \$3. The tenth and enlarged edition of a book of photographic stunts. High school pupils who enjoy using a camera will find many amusing, amazing and interesting uses for their instruments in this book. Others will enjoy examining the pictures reproduced.

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## Engineering

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERS' HANDBOOK**—Edited by Lionel S. Marks—*McGraw-Hill*, 2264 p., \$7. The fact that the first two editions of this book went through a total of eighteen printings is sufficient warrant to expect a similar success for the third. This chunky little book is a whole engineers' encyclopedia in itself, ranging from tables of mathematical functions to a digest of the A. S. M. E. power test codes.

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## Biochemistry

**CAN SCIENCE EXPLAIN LIFE?**—C. F. Krafft—*Author*, 94 p., \$1. An artificial protein or polypeptide structure when arranged in spiral form is believed by the author to be involved in protoplasm and to explain certain biological phenomena. The evidence brought forward will scarcely convince the sceptical.

*Science News Letter, June 27, 1931*

## Radio

**A. C. RADIO GUIDE**—K. A. Hathaway—*American Technical Society*, 118 p., \$1.50. Revised edition of a compact treatise on alternating-current radio tubes and sets and dynamic loud speakers.

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