

• First Glances at New Books

Agricultural Economics

THE INTRODUCTION OF FARM MACHINERY IN ITS RELATION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY OF LABOR IN THE AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. I: THE PLOW. II: WHEAT PRODUCTS—Leo Rogin—*University of California Press*, 260 p., \$3.50. At a time when the whole civilized world is confronted by problems created by huge surpluses in agricultural products, which in turn were created in part by the efficiency of farm machinery, these two treatises of Dr. Rogin's are of especial interest. As in urban industry, the machine-made revolution in agriculture is practically altogether an affair of the nineteenth century, and by telling the story of two of its very important group machines and their evolution through that period so thoroughly and completely, Dr. Rogin has made a contribution of solid and permanent value to the literature.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Medical Economics

THE YOUNG DOCTOR THINKS OUT LOUD—Julian P. P. Price—*Appleton*, 187 p., \$1.50. The author, himself a young physician, tells what he and his contemporaries think of their profession, their medical training and why they selected medicine as a career. Young medical and premedical students will find this small book full of useful information, while established physicians, professors of medicine and hospital superintendents will find some stimulating, if respectful criticism.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Horticulture

AMERICAN ALPINES IN THE GARDEN—Anderson McCully—*Macmillan*, 251 p., \$2.50. It has been a standing complaint among the large number of persons interested in rock-gardening that too large a proportion of available plants are exotics. We have many fine natives worthy of a stony place in the sun; and here finally is a manual that tells what they are, where they come from and what to do with them.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Physics

TERRESTRIAL ELECTRICITY—Fernando Sanford—*Stanford University Press*, 208 p., \$3. The author boldly presents revolutionary theories of the electrical charge of the sun and of the earth,

earth currents, magnetic storms and other terrestrial phenomena; though he does not support them with mathematical argument. Anticipating a hostile reception, he says in his preface that he believes "that the conclusions which he has reached . . . are important enough to risk having his name placed upon the list of madmen who have tried to find intelligible interpretation of the complex phenomena of the physical universe."

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Astronomy

LES OBSERVATOIRES ASTRONOMIQUES ET LES ASTRONOMES—P. Stroobant, J. Delvosal, E. Delpont, F. Moreau and H. L. Vanderlinden—*Casterman, Tournai-Paris*, 315 p., 10 francs (Swiss). This group of Belgian astronomers have placed in their debt not only all colleagues of their own discipline but also all persons who have occasion to look up, for any purpose, information about any observatory or astronomer. The observatories are listed in alphabetic order of the cities where they are located; exact latitude and longitude is given, a brief summary of the foundation of each and a list of the principal instruments. The information also includes the name and specialty of each staff member, and an outline of the program of the observatory.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Forestry

THE EVERGREEN FORESTS OF LIBERIA—G. P. Cooper and S. J. Record—*School of Forestry, Yale University*, 153 p., 15 pl., \$1. A report on investigations made in Liberia by the Yale University School of Forestry in cooperation with the Firestone Plantations Company; it will be of interest alike to botanists and foresters.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Zoology

STRANGE ANIMALS I HAVE KNOWN—Raymond L. Ditmars—*Brewer, Warren and Putnam*, 375 p., \$3.50. The author's principal business is with reptiles, and he can tell tales about handling them in the zoo and traveling with them by rail and steamer and less modern means of transportation. Some of the tales are amusing, some quite hair-raising. Besides these, he has had to do with out-of-the-way creatures wearing fur and feathers.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Botany

FIELD WORK FOR THE LOCAL BOTANIST—A. S. Hitchcock—*Author*, 58 p., \$1. Dr. Hitchcock has travelled far and brought back many strange and interesting plants from foreign lands; but those who know him best agree that his botanical discourses have the greatest charm when he talks about things that anybody can find in his own back yard or in the course of an afternoon's ramble afield. In this small book he condenses much of his lore, presenting it in such form that a decently trained amateur can take hold of it and lay out a program of consistent observation or minor research for himself. It is not a "key"; indeed much of the work here suggested can be done without even knowing the names of the plants, for the book is concerned more with their natural history than with their taxonomy. Especially useful are the chapters showing how many interesting things can be learned from plants in winter, when botany is supposed (by the unobserving) to be at a standstill.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Travel

TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA—G. N. Roerich—*Yale University Press*, 504 p., \$7.50. Kashmir, Khotan, Urumchi, the land of the Hor-Pas, and a score of other regions at the inaccessible center of all the world where nobody ever goes—all these the author has visited and photographed the people that are in them; and he tells about it, most interestingly, in his book.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Cytology

A TEXT-BOOK OF EXPERIMENTAL CYTOLOGY—James Gray—*Macmillan*, 516 p., \$7.50. Most textbooks in the subject of cytology content themselves with presentation of what might be called its "statics"; this book, on the contrary, is concerned primarily with the cell as a living, developing, often moving entity. In its special field it will therefore be especially welcomed.

Science News Letter, October 3, 1931

Evolution

EVOLUTION—J. Arthur Thomson—*American Library Assn.*, 48 p., cloth 50c, paper 35c. A better author than J. Arthur Thomson for this particular number in the Reading With a Purpose series could hardly be found.

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