

• First Glances at New Books

Psychology

THE JUNGLE OF THE MIND—Edgar James Swift—*Scribner's*, 340 p., \$2.50. The thick growth of superstition and self-deception is all about us. It has even been increased, the author tells us, by recent rapid strides in scientific knowledge. "We can do all sorts of things with all sorts of rays which we can neither see nor feel. Why then may we not, as some maintain, learn the thoughts of others from brain vibrations? . . . For those who enjoy wandering through a trackless jungle of obscurity it is only a step from electrons and protons to the belief that the table on which I am writing, disease-producing germs, and even disease itself are non-existent hallucinations." This interesting volume will do much to guide those who wish escape from the jungle.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Zoology

BIOLOGY OF THE AMPHIBIA—G. Kingsley Noble—*McGraw-Hill*, 577 p., \$5. There have been several acceptable works on the taxonomy of the amphibia, but a modern book on their physiology, habits and adaptations will fill a long-felt want. Dr. Noble's treatise will be welcomed not merely by specialists in this particular field but by zoologists generally and by students of evolution who appreciate the unique importance of this great group of cold-blooded vertebrates.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Plant Physiology

PLANT BIOCHEMISTRY—Muriel Wheldale Onslow—*Cambridge University Press*, 204 p., \$4.75. The success of this thoroughly scientific treatise is well attested by the fact that in spite of its limited field and technical nature it is now in its third edition.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Metallurgy

RARE METALS—*Fansteel Products Co.*, 70 p., free. A brief popular account of the history, properties and uses of tantalum, tungsten, molybdenum, caesium, rubidium and columbium.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Medicine

THE DOCTOR EXPLAINS—Ralph H. Major—*Knopf*, 277 p., \$3.50. A remarkably interesting book in which a physician explains, in simple terms, many of the things which the layman wants to know about health and disease.

Some of the subjects are heart disturbances, blood pressure, what the doctor finds in a physical examination, hypersensitiveness, diabetes, X-rays, and "the malady of Venus." As Dr. Major himself says, "Many other striking medical discoveries could of course be added. But a wise physician does not overdose his patients, even with facts."

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Aviation

THE MODEL AIRCRAFT BUILDER—Chelsea Fraser—*Crowell*, 384 p., \$2.50. The country is full of boys in their middle 'teens who aspire to be fliers. How many there are, and how intensely they are interested in their calling, is well testified by the success of model-building and model-flying contests. This book is sure to become the Bible of this numerous tribe. It not only tells how to build and fly models, but gives detailed directions for the building of ground trainers, in which you sit and manipulate the controls. It also tells how to make model airships and mooring masts, and for the really scientifically-minded youth offers designs for a home-built wind tunnel. Most modern touch of all, it shows how to build a model autogiro that will really fly.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Chemistry

DIELECTRIC CONSTANT AND MOLECULAR STRUCTURE—Charles Phelps Smyth—*Chemical Catalog Company*, 214 p., \$4. This most recent addition to the notable Monograph Series of the American Chemical Society will be welcomed by its special audience in the field of physical chemistry.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Biology

BIOLOGY NOTEBOOK—W. H. D. Meier and Dorothy Meier—*Ginn*, 160 p., 72c. A loose-leaf laboratory notebook, with spaces for sketches and questions to be answered.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Entomology

BUTTERFLY AND MOTH BOOK—Ellen Robertson-Miller—*Scribners*, 285 p., \$2.50. A revised and enlarged edition of a successful popular book on the insect order that probably has the greatest fascination for the amateur and the casual observer. There are many good photographic and line illustrations.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

General Science

JOURNAL OF URUSVATI, Vol. 1, No. 1—*Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum, New York*, 101 p., 75c, annual subscription, \$1.35. The activities in Middle Eastern exploration of Prof. Roerich and the Himalayan Research Institute are well known. Now, the Institute has undertaken a new project, in publishing a journal on Asiatic research and allied subjects. The first, very interesting, issue includes articles on archaeological methods by R. V. D. Magoffin and Count du Mesnil du Buisson; a survey of problems of Tibetan archaeology by Georges de Roerich; an article on Lomonosov, the first Russian chemist, and an article on physical and psychic self-development by C. C. Lozina.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Physics

A SHORT HISTORY OF ATOMISM—J. C. Gregory—*Macmillan*, 258 p., 10 s 6d. Traces the atom from the Phenician Mochus, who was before Lucretius, down to Dalton, and thence through the modern maze where the atom is no long atomic, and perhaps no longer even made of indivisible ultimate particles, but somehow is an atom still. Students of physics, philosophers and educated readers generally will want this summary.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Natural History

WILD LIFE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAIN FOREST—Ernest Harold Baynes—*Macmillan*, 140 p., \$2. A cheerful, discursive account of the animals of a typical New England mountain region and of the people who live with them, written by an experienced outdoors man.

Science News Letter, October 10, 1931

Obstetrics

WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILDBIRTH—Walker B. Gossett—*Midwest*, 290 p., \$2. A physician with many years of obstetrical practice discusses various phases of the subject, such as primitive obstetrical methods, modern hospital methods, twilight sleep, superstitions and maternal impressions, etc. One of the most interesting chapters is the description of the Frontier Nursing Service in Kentucky, written by its director, Mary Breckenridge, and reprinted from the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

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