

• First Glances at New Books

General Science

USEFUL SCIENCE, Book I—Henry T. Weed and Frank A. Rexford—*John C. Winston Co.*, 222 p., \$1.08. Boys and girls are naturally experimentalists, a fact which school books on science have not always used to advantage. This introductory text, for seventh grades, is strongly experimental. The experiments and the lesson explanations have been kept reasonably simple, and a large number of illustrations are supplied. The subjects include water, trees, soil, foods, exercise, bacteria.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Medical Economics

THE "MUNICIPAL DOCTOR" SYSTEM IN RURAL SASKATCHEWAN—C. Rufus Rorem—*University of Chicago Press*, 84 p., \$1. A publication of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care. The report is based on personal observations made by the author during visits to five municipalities in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba, and on questionnaires to independent physicians and to the municipal doctors themselves.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Ornithology

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK—Gayle B. Pickwell—*St. Louis Academy of Science*, 160 p., 34 pl., \$2. He is no true son of the prairies who does not know and love the hardy little horned lark, whose thin, sweet pipings tell the gray fields that spring is coming, weeks before the first boisterous robin dares show his beak. So this treatise, getting into one place the whole story of the charming little bird, is sure of a most appreciative welcome by a large public.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Fiction

THE COMING OF THE AMAZONS—Owen Johnson—*Longman's*, 251 p., \$2. Another Utopia, filled with super-airships, super-television and teleaudition devices, control over climate and all the other later-than-modern improvements. This world imagined by Mr. Johnson is made tenfold more dreadful by being placed under the absolute control of a race of stirpicultural super-women, with men reduced to the rank of social toys and temporary biological necessities—why the author didn't add a practical method of parthenogenesis it is hard to guess; except that that would have spoiled the story. In the end, the twentieth-century male who finds him-

self injected into this Eve-bossed Eden by the old device of a long hibernation escapes from its terrible tepidity by freezing himself to death—and no wonder!

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Chemistry

ELEMENTS OF GENERAL CHEMISTRY—Joseph A. Babor, William L. Estabrooke, and Alexander Lehrman—*Crowell*, 601 p., \$3.75. A textbook designed for college students who have had no previous courses in chemistry and who may or may not be going to take further work in the subject. The nice exposition of the scientific spirit given in the introduction starts the book off well.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Chemistry

LABORATORY MANUAL IN ELEMENTS OF GENERAL CHEMISTRY—Joseph A. Babor, W. L. Estabrooke, and Alexander Lehrman—*Crowell*, 419 p., \$2. Designed for use with the authors' *Elements of General Chemistry*. The discussion at the beginning of each experiment should stimulate the student to think about the work he is doing and not merely to follow directions in a routine fashion.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Metallurgy

SECONDARY ALUMINUM—Robert J. Anderson—*Sherwood Press*, 563 p., \$10. The remaking of the wastes of today into useful articles for tomorrow is the life of a number of industries not the least of which is that which turns scrap aluminum into the pots and pans and airplane parts from which it came. This book presents in clear language information necessary to a thorough understanding of the production of secondary aluminum from the scrap, and its utilization.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Entomology

THE PLANT LICE, OR APHIDAE, OF ILLINOIS—F. C. Hottes and T. H. Frison—*Illinois State Natural History Survey*, 447 p., free. In describing, with completeness and thoroughness, one of the principal plant pests of one of the principal agricultural states of the Union, the authors have performed a service that will be appreciated far beyond the borders of Illinois.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Physics

THE PHYSICS OF HIGH PRESSURE—P. W. Bridgman—*Macmillan*, 398 p., \$5.50. This is a comprehensive text for research workers in the field of high pressure phenomena. Prof. Bridgman recently has become known to the general public by his thought-provoking "Logic of Modern Physics." Among scientists Prof. Bridgman has an enviable reputation for his twenty-five years of experimental researches on the behavior of materials under compression. The present book is a summary of his work but at the same time surveys the whole subject adequately. Rupture, compressibility, melting, polymorphic transition, electric properties and viscosity are among the properties considered. Mathematical discussion is reduced to a bare minimum.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Biochemistry

NUCLEIC ACIDS—P. A. Levene and Lawrence W. Bass—*Chemical Catalog*, 337 p., \$4.50. This is a monograph of the American Chemical Society, written for research workers in this and related fields. The nucleic acids, which contain phosphoric acid, a sugar and a cyclic derivative of urea, are the important constituent of the chromatin or chromosomes of cells and the elucidation of their structure will probably be more helpful in unravelling the fundamental problems of biology than any other single development in biochemistry. Dr. Levene is the eminent organic chemist of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Geology

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE QUARTER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY—*Illinois State Geological Survey*, 300 p. In addition to papers outlining the history of this important state geological survey, there are a number on various aspects of the geology of the Pennsylvanian age that are of more than ordinary interest.

Science News Letter, October 24, 1931

Physics

ANALYTICAL MECHANICS—H. M. Dadourian—*Van Nostrand*, 427 p., \$4. The third addition of an interestingly written college textbook.

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