

• First Glances at New Books

Physics

CONSTITUTION OF ATOMIC NUCLEI AND RADIOACTIVITY—G. Gamow—*Clarendon Press*, 114 p., \$3.50. This concise outline of our knowledge of the nucleus of the atom from various angles is well timed to help the present drive on the problems of nuclear physics. Already a fairly clear and detailed picture of the core of the atom is emerging. Separate sections of the book deal with the evidence from the periodic table, from measurements of alpha, beta and gamma rays and from experiments on artificial transformation. The translation from the German is excellent as is also the typography. The author is himself an able contributor to our knowledge of this field.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Volcanology—Ecology

JORULLO—Hans Gadow—*Macmillan*, xv+ 100 p., \$3. The story of a new volcano (it broke out in the middle of a fertile farm country in 1759), the destruction it wrought, and the power and patience of living things in reconquering the territory thus violently rent away from them. It forms a classic worthy to be told along with the better known tale of Krakatau.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Medicine

THE CLINICAL INTERPRETATION OF BLOOD EXAMINATIONS—Robert A. Kilduffe—*Lea and Febiger*, 629 p., \$6.50. Dr. Kilduffe evaluates the various blood examinations themselves (chemical, bacteriological, serological and cytological) and also explains the clinical significance of their results. Both physicians and surgeons will find the book helpful, while its perusal by the laboratory technician will make him a more intelligent aid to the practitioner.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Archaeology

THE MERRIMACK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY—Warren King Moorehead, with supplementary notes by Benjamin L. Smith on the Concord Valley—*Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.*, 79 p. New England states, with the exception of Maine, have not been investigated to any great extent archaeologically, due mainly to the close formation of settlements and farms on the land. Prof. Moorehead has surmounted difficulties ably in making a survey of the Merrimack Valley. After first listing almost

a hundred Indian sites mentioned in early history, the expedition sank 13,000 test pits and examined 420 sites, obtaining in the process more than 2,000 specimens. This is a preliminary paper describing the survey.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Zoology-Photography

THE PICTURE BOOK OF ANIMALS—Edited by Isabel Ely Lord—*Macmillan*, 114 p., \$2.50. Just a picture book—but what a picture book! From cuckoo to crocodile, from elk to elephant, through seven-score-and-ten fascinating subjects the lens of the expert photographers who made these pictures have ranged. They were all taken in Germany but they translate themselves straight into the language that everyone who likes animals speaks in his heart—the secret tongue of *Il Poverello*. The book will make an ideal Christmas gift.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Paleontology

CATALOGUE OF THE MARINE PLIOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE MOLLUSCA OF CALIFORNIA AND ADJACENT REGIONS—U. S. Grant, IV and Hoyt Rodney Gale—*San Diego Society of Natural History*, 1036 p., 32 pl., \$8. This really monumental catalogue, which will be of great usefulness to paleontologists, malacologists and zoologists generally, constitutes Vol. I of a new series: the Memoirs of the San Diego Society of Natural History. If future publications maintain the standard set in this first volume, it will become one of the classic series in scientific literature.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Engineering

SYMPOSIUM ON ABRASION TESTING OF RUBBER—*American Society for Testing Materials*, xxx+ 62 p., 50c. This pamphlet is a collection of five papers and a general discussion on abrasion of rubber from a recent meeting. It is of interest to rubber technologists.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Natural History

MY NATURE NOOK—W. S. Blatchley—*Nature Publishing Company, Indianapolis*, 302 p., \$2. Life in Florida, as viewed from the vantage point of a crotch in a great liveoak. Written in the form of a diary, covering a period of half a generation.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Psychology-Psychiatry

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MEN OF GENIUS—Ernst Kretschmer, translated by R. B. Cattell—*Harcourt, Brace*, 256 p., \$4.50. Translations of scientific works are so often stiff and halting, that it is pleasing to find one so fluent as this. It is Prof. Kretschmer's view that the genius is, from a biological standpoint, an extreme variant of the human species. He declares that all geniuses are more or less abnormal, and that removal of the abnormal factor would leave the genius merely an ordinarily talented person. This thesis is argued eloquently, and reinforced by numerous citations from the lives of geniuses, chiefly Germanic ones.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Ornithology

SYSTEMATIC REVISION AND NATURAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN SHRIKES (LANIUS)—A. H. Miller—*Univ. of California Press*, 231 p., \$3. A thorough-going monograph, of interest to systematic ornithologists.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Home Economics

MAKING HOMES—Hazel Shultz—*Appleton*, 519 p., \$2. Written as a textbook in home economics for high school classes, this book will interest any woman with a home of her own. The ideas are practical and interesting, illustrations are excellent, and the reading lists should be a boon to the home economics teacher.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

Parasitology

1. KEY CATALOGUE OF PARASITES REPORTED FOR CHIROPTERA (BATS) WITH THEIR POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE—C. W. Stiles and Mabelle Orleman Nolan, and 2. THE CONFUSED NOMENCLATURE OF *Nycteribia LATREILLE, 1796, AND Spinturnix HEYDEN, 1826*—Benjamin J. Collins—*Government Printing Office*, 186 p., 30c. Bats are such literally flighty creatures that very little is known with any surety regarding their importance as factors in the bio-environment of man. Yet their potentialities as destroyers of insects, possible carriers of disease, etc., justify a close inquiry into the taxonomy of their parasites by workers of the U. S. Public Health Service, and an effort to straighten out its neglected and tangled-up nomenclature.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931