

# • First Glances at New Books

## Paleontology

**THE FELIDAE OF RANCHO LA BREA**—John C. Merriam and Chester Stock—*Carnegie Institution*, xvi+231 p., 43 pl., paper \$7, cloth \$8. Man, the elephant, the whale, and other valuable animals are a long time coming to birth. For a number of years, paleontologists and students of the life sciences generally have known that Merriam and Stock were at work on a monograph of the cats of the famous California tar-pits, and they have possessed their souls in patience. Now their vigil is rewarded with a truly magnificent book, that adds solidly to the data of mammalian paleontology generally, and about the cats of this particular locality simply leaves nothing more to be said. While the treatment of the two big species *Smilodon californicus* and *Felis atrox*, is principally morphological, there is also much matter of interest to the paleocologist; and the non-technical reader will get a genuine thrill from Knight's splendid restoration drawings of the greatest of the sabre-tooth cats and the huge Pleistocene lion.

*Science News Letter, December 24, 1932*

## Geology

**TREATISE ON SEDIMENTATION**—William H. Twenhofel—*Williams and Wilkins*, xxix+926 p., \$8. The success of this book, worked up under the auspices of the National Research Council, is so well attested that it has entered a second edition, in spite of the fact that its limited field gives it an appeal to only a limited audience. However, the thoroughness with which the various authors have written their respective sections, and the skill with which Dr. Twenhofel has assimilated their contributions to each other to make a harmonious whole, has made the book one of the geologist's few real indispensables. No one can pretend to handle the subject of sedimentation (the Siva of geology, which destroys and rebuilds in the same act) without recourse to this book.

*Science News Letter, December 24, 1932*

## Genetics

**RECENT ADVANCES IN PLANT GENETICS**—F. W. Sansome and J. Philp—*Blakiston*, 414 p., \$4. While there are many texts in elementary genetics, there has not been until now a comprehensive work in English on the newer developments in plant genetics. For this reason the present volume, by two well-

known English workers, should be assured of a welcome by research men, teachers and advanced students interested in this special discipline.

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## General Science

**SCIENCE TODAY AND TOMORROW**—Morley College Lectures—*Williams & Norgate, Ltd.*, 196 p., 8s. 6d. A concise, informative and extremely readable survey of the broad fields of science originally prepared in the form of lectures before the Morley College for Working Men and Women at London. Eminent British scientists, including Sir Frank Dyson, the Astronomer Royal, Professor G. Eliot Smith, etc., cover astronomy, psychology, chemistry and radiation, anthropology, medicine, biology, mechanism, botany and geology.

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## Preventive Medicine

**OUTLINE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**—Edited by Frederic E. Sondern, Charles Gordon Heyd and E. H. L. Corwin—*Hoeber*, 462 p., \$5. This book is intended for medical practitioners and health officers, medical students and the intelligent layman. It has been prepared under the auspices of the committee on public health relations of the New York Academy of Medicine. This second edition has been enlarged considerably. The book aims to teach methods of preventing disease in the first place, and of preventing the more serious results of disease by suitable, early treatment. The sections are written by specialists in the various subjects.

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## Chemistry

**ON THE MECHANISM OF OXIDATION**—Heinrich Wieland—*Yale Univ. Press*, 117 p., \$2.50. Professor Wieland, of the University of Munich, received the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1927. In this volume, based on the Silliman Lectures which he delivered at Yale University, Professor Wieland discusses his important researches in a field in which he is recognized as an authority.

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## Physics-General Science

**TIME, MATTER, AND VALUES**—R. A. Millikan—*University of North Carolina Press*, 99 p., \$1. In bringing into printed form the McNair lectures at the University of North Carolina Dr. Millikan explains that he attempts to give in very brief form some of the most significant changes in fundamental concepts which have resulted from the extraordinary advances made in recent years in the field of experimental physics. "These changes," he says, "obviously have important bearings not only on physics but on the whole outlook of mankind toward nature, and hence toward life. They show that the great blunder which the physics of the past had made has consisted in extending its generalizations which undue assurance into fields in which they have not been experimentally tested. . . . This has led in the past to a dogmatism in science which is at bottom indistinguishable from dogmatism in theology or in any other field. . . ."

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## Metallurgy

**THE METALS, THEIR ALLOYS, AMALGAMS AND COMPOUNDS**—A. Frederick Collins—*Appleton*, 310 p., \$2. A popular handbook intended for elementary reading. One chapter is devoted to the metals men believed to exist but later proved to be non-existent.

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## Mathematics

**NEW SOLID GEOMETRY**—Fletcher Durrell and E. E. Arnold—*Charles E. Merrill Co.*, 531 p., \$1.24. A new edition of a textbook for elementary courses.

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## Preventive Medicine

**ANNUAL REPORT, 1931**—*Rockefeller Foundation*, 420 p., Free. The progress during 1931 of the varied activities carried on with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation is reported in this volume. Medical, social and natural sciences as well as public health and humanistic studies were aided.

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