

• First Glances at New Books

Archaeology

THE LOST EMPIRES OF THE ITZAES AND MAYAS—Theodore A. Willard—*Arthur H. Clark Co.*, 449 p., \$6. Mr. Willard has an entertaining style. It is too bad that he blends with good material fantastic ideas that scientific research workers no longer take seriously. He suggests that "the lost continent of Atlantis" might have cradled the Mayan civilization. He is convinced that some foreign origin must be found to account for Mayan achievements. He gives the impression that the Mayas had a monotheistic religion, by writing repeatedly of Itzamna, referring to him as "Itzamna, whose religion fostered subservience to one God."

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Archaeology

THE SEALAND OF ANCIENT ARABIA—Raymond Philip Dougherty—*Yale Univ. Press*, 203 p., \$3. Reasons for locating in Arabia the mysterious Sealand of the ancient world are impressively brought together by Prof. Dougherty. Since Arabia is almost entirely closed country to archaeological expeditions, the case rests at present mainly on clues in cuneiform tablets and other historic evidence. Prof. Dougherty's identification of the Sealand brings into a clearer focus many obscure angles of ancient history, notably certain origins of Hebrew religion.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Astronomy-Biology

LIFE'S PLACE IN THE COSMOS—Hiram Percy Maxim—*Appleton*, 177 p., \$2.50. Known to the world as the great inventor of the Maxim silencer and other ordnance, and as an enthusiastic radio and cinema amateur, Mr. Maxim looks at the heavens and speculates as to whether they contain life as does the earth.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Aviation

FLYING—James E. Fechet—*Williams and Wilkins*, 138 p., \$1. A former chief of the United States Army Air Corps, foreworded by Eddie Rickenbacker, writes a concise account of aviation, past, present and future, as one of the Century of Progress Series.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Bacteriology

THE STORY OF MICROBES—Paul W. Allen—*Bookmill Company (Knox-*

ville), 459 p., \$3.75. A briskly written, popular but solidly filled book on the history of bacteriology and the role of bacteria in disease, agriculture and other of their manifold activities. It is excellently illustrated with black-and-white drawings. It will be useful on the reference shelf of the student, interesting in the library of the layman.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Chemistry

CHEMISTRY TRIUMPHANT—William J. Hale—*Williams and Wilkins*, 151 p., \$1. A stimulating volume, written by one of America's leading chemical creators, which will throw new light on the social revolution raging about us. Particularly interesting is Dr. Hale's chemical interpretation of history.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Endocrinology

THE TIDES OF LIFE—R. G. Hoskins—*Norton*, 352 p., \$3.50. The endocrine glands have proved a fascinating subject to layman and scientist. In this volume the scientist tells the layman all that science has learned about these enormously important and in many respects still mysterious glands. While non-technical, the book is not written with the juvenile appeal of many popular books on health. It is, however, a clear, comprehensive and accurate presentation of facts and their significance. A Scientific Book Club selection.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Engineering

ACOUSTICS AND ARCHITECTURE—Paul E. Sabine—*McGraw-Hill*, 327 p., \$3.50. Architects and others who build with regard for sound will welcome this practical presentation of the rapidly developing field of acoustics by one prominent in acoustical research.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Engineering

AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS HANDBOOK—E. V. Hill—*Aerologist Pub. Co., Chicago*, 318 p., \$5. Seven separate booklets have been brought together in loose-leaf binder between leather covers to form a very complete text and hand-book for the young industry. It should be useful to all builders and contractors as well as to those directly concerned with the installation of air conditioning equipment.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Ethnology

THE ESKIMOS, THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND FOLKWAYS—Edward Moffat Weyer, Jr.—*Yale Univ. Press*, 491 p., \$5. This might be called an informal encyclopaedia of the Eskimos. It is filled with facts and tables, maps, charts, and footnote references to source material. Yet there is enough folklore and custom, entertainingly explained, to give the volume a place on the table for general reading, as well as its own corner on the reference shelf.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Ethnology—Archaeology

MEXICO BEFORE CORTÉZ—J. Eric Thompson—*Scribner*, 298 p., 33 pl., \$2.50. As simply as if he were describing the picturesque ways of the Dutch or the Japanese, Mr. Thompson tells us about the life of the Aztec Indians. This approach is excellent for the reader who would like to get acquainted with the Aztecs and kindred tribes.

JUST OFF THE PRESS

Jungle Bees and Wasps of BARRO Colorado Island

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An account of the ecology and biology of the social and solitary wasps and stingless bees of a jungle island in Panama, with special attention to their mental attributes and adaptations, and comparison of their habits and instincts with those of their near relatives in the temperate regions.

Dr. William Morton Wheeler, of Harvard University says: "Jungle Bees and Wasps, of Barro Colorado Island" is, in my opinion, one of the most outstanding recent contributions to natural history, containing as it does a large amount of new and very valuable material on the Neotropical bees and wasps. The book is written in a very entertaining style, easily intelligible to any layman and illustrated with a profusion of fine photographs. It will undoubtedly rank among the leading works on the instinctive behavior of insects." **PRICE—\$2.75**

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Their civilization—like ours—was a blend of the advanced and the backward. Telling a lie was a serious offense. Graft was punished by death. Astrologers helped arrange weddings. Divorce was easy. Only an old person might get intoxicated: death was the penalty for that in a young person. Jade rated higher than gold. Every fifty-two years they feared the end of the world was at hand. An extraordinary, fascinating people of ancient America.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

General Science

THE UNIVERSE OF SCIENCE—H. Levy—*Century*, 224 p., \$2. Prof. Levy, who is professor of mathematics at the Imperial College of Science, London, challenges the whole invasion of science by philosophical idealism. He tilts with Eddington and Jeans and he insists that the line of ethical demarcation between pure and applied science cannot be maintained.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

General Science

WE LOOK ABOUT US—G. S. Craig and Agnes Burke—*Ginn*, 194 p., 68c. This is the first book in a new science series for elementary schools, and certainly if subsequent volumes keep up the initial standard a great success can be prophesied for the series. The scientific answers to children's endless "whys," as well as the scientific backgrounds of a thousand things that even their curiosity often takes for granted are here set forth simply, yet without unnecessary "writing down." In simple narrative style, children are shown learning meteorology from a snowman, biology from porcupines and earthworms, physics from playhouses and bowls of water. Probably not only children but often their parents and teachers will learn to use their eyes better from a proper use of this little book.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Geology—Astronomy

OUR STONE-PELTED PLANET—H. H. Nininger—*Houghton Mifflin*, 327 p., \$3. A popular book on meteorites with a voluminous appendix which lists the meteorites of the world by country and contains maps on which are located the principal meteorite falls.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Psychology

BEHAVIOR MECHANISMS IN MONKEYS—Heinrich Klüver—*University of*

Chicago Press, 387 p., \$4. A comprehensive and thorough study of the behavior and mental abilities of several varieties of monkeys. As Dr. Lashley comments in the introduction, the author "presents for the first time something approaching a complete picture of the perceptual world of an animal. This perceptual organization is surprisingly like that of man."

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Psychology

PROBLEMS IN HUMAN ENGINEERING—F. Alexander Magoun and his students—*Macmillan*, 535 p., \$2.60. A textbook to aid engineering students to become acquainted with the various human problems they are likely to meet during their professional career. Informal discussions of what to do when the boss steals all the credit, when the foreman gives you an unpleasant nickname, when the other fellow gets the promotion, when there is dissension among your subordinates, and finally when you receive ten thousand a year.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Psychology

SWEEPING THE COBWEBS—Lillian J. Martin and Clare de Gruchy—*Macmillan*, 181 p., \$1.50. A practical handbook of exercises for mental rejuvenation by the chronologically aged but mentally vigorous author of "Salvaging Old Age" and her assistant in the first old age clinic. Miss Martin insists that old age has its beginning in the cradle, so if you are any age at all you will be interested in this volume that tells you how to keep that schoolgirl personality.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Psychology—Education

CHARACTER IN HUMAN RELATIONS—Hugh Hartshorne—*Scribner's*, 367 p., \$2.50. This book is the outgrowth of a long program of experimental study. The author tells what is now being done to develop character in the young; he discusses various theories of character; and gives his own point of view. The parent, the educator, and the sociologist will find practical suggestions for procedures mingled with more general statements of theory.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Physics

AN OUTLINE OF ATOMIC PHYSICS—Physics Staff of the University of Pittsburgh—*John Wiley and Sons*, 348 p., \$3.50. Unusual in that it is the joint work of seven members of the physics staff of a large university, this book

Allergy and Immunity in Ophthalmology

By ALAN C. WOODS

188 pages, \$2.25

Epidemiology: Historical and Experimental

By MAJOR GREENWOOD

90 pages, \$1.50

Evolution of Facial Musculature and Facial Expression

By ERNST HUBER

196 pages, \$2.50

THE JOHNS HOPKINS PRESS
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Brooklyn Botanic Garden Publications

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• First Glances at New Books

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grew out of a course of lectures given for some years to college men and women who had completed a year's work in physics but who expected to devote their lives to professions other than physics. It should prove useful for reference reading as well as a textbook.

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Physics

THE RELATIVITY THEORY SIMPLIFIED—Max Talmey—*Falcon Press*, 186 p., \$1.50. The boyhood friend of Prof. Einstein, a layman and a well-trained amateur, explains the relativity theory and, what is more important perhaps, tells the story of the formative period of Einstein. The introduction is by Dr. George B. Pegram, professor of physics at Columbia.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Psychiatry

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS—William A. White—*Farrar and Rinehart*, 276 p., \$2.50. This discussion by the director of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Government Hospital for the Insane at Washington, D. C., will prove stimulating to all thoughtful readers and all students of an important modern problem. The chapter on capital punishment is particularly noteworthy, while the closing chapter, in which Dr. White draws on his long experience for illustrative stories, will probably be of most interest to the general reader. The book has been recommended by the Book of the Month Club.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Sex Hygiene

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE—Edited by Kenneth M. Walker—*Norton*, 175 p., \$2. Introduction by Logan Clendening. This book "for married people and those intending marriage," was originally planned as a symposium of the view of different specialists on the subject of preparation for marriage. In order to give it cohesion and remove from it the too impersonal note of the laboratory, the contributed material was rewritten by Mr. Walker. The book aims to be useful by giving advice in a practical, simple way.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Horticulture

THE NEW ILLUSTRATED GARDENING

ENCYCLOPAEDIA—Richard Sudell—*Scribner's*, 1152 p., \$3.75. Although written primarily for use in Britain, with a special eye to the problems of British climate and soil, this low-priced one-volume cyclopaedia of horticulture will have its wide uses also on this side of the water. Its descriptions and illustrations of thousands of cultivated varieties are quite as pertinent in North America as they are in the author's own country.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Mathematics

NUMEROLOGY—E. T. Bell—*Williams and Wilkins*, 176 p., \$2. The professor of mathematics in the California Institute of Technology, who under the name of John Taine occasionally writes detective stories, combines his two talents in this delightful and satiric exposé. Let those who may be scared by its title be assured that instead of being won to false science they will learn much science from this volume which is authoritative in very many aspects and at the same time readable. "Although numbers cannot lie they have a positive genius for telling the truth with intention to deceive." Now go on with the story.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Medical Economics

THE COSTS OF MEDICAL CARE—I. S. Falk, C. Rufus Rorem, Martha D. Ring—*University of Chicago Press*, 623 p., \$4. This bulky volume, fortunately indexed, summarizes and analyzes the facts discovered in the various studies made by the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care. While the volume is large, it probably will be quicker and easier for the average person to get his information on the subject from this volume than from trying to read all the others in the series.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Nutrition

FOOD IN HEALTH AND DISEASE—Katherine Mitchell Thoma—*F. A. Davis Co.*, 370 p., \$2.75. A practical text on dietetics and nutrition designed for nurses which might also be helpful to

the housewife, particularly if some member of her family requires a special diet. While such special diets are discussed, the importance of an adequate general diet is stressed. There are many recipes as well as the theoretical discussion, and there is a copious index.

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Standardization

STANDARDS YEARBOOK 1933—Bureau of Standards—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 255 p., \$1. This guide book to standardization both official and industrial is now an important annual publication of the United States Bureau of Standards. In it are summarized the activities of international standardizing agencies, national standardizing laboratories and national industrial standardizing bodies as well as the work of the federal standardizing agencies of this country and the work of the Bureau of Standards and other similar agencies.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Sociology

IN PLACE OF PROFIT—Harry F. Ward—*Scribner's*, 460 p., \$2.50. This study of social incentives in the Soviet Union will interest particularly psychologists and all other scientists who are concerned with the details of the Soviet experiment. The use of the dialectical method in science and the Soviet contention that science cannot be neutral in the contest of politics and the struggle of social forces will be an unconventional idea to most American scientists. Soviet scientists, the book says, in every international gathering in which they appear always attack the position of "science for science's sake."

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

Zoology

MAMMALS AND BIRDS—*Encyclopaedia Britannica*—xx+199 p., 55 pl., \$3. The publishers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* have assembled a selection of the articles on mammals and birds, published in the new Fourteenth Edition, and present them here as a single, richly illustrated volume. Useful to the student for reference, it is also a first class "picture-book" by virtue of the many fine plates, 14 of which are in color.

Science News Letter, April 22, 1933

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