

his masterly treatise "China, Land of Famine," was secretary of the China International Famine Relief Commission.

China's flood problems result from a peculiarly critical combination of geographical and meteorological circumstances, aggravated by a shortsightedness forced upon her people by their terrific poverty. The greater part of China's crowded millions live on the flat alluvial plains of her eastern provinces. These plains are the gift of the rivers that periodically ravage them, for they have been built up in recent geological time by the washing of silt down from the steep mountain lands to the west and north. Once forested, these uplands have been stripped of every tree and bush that might check erosion and modify the torrential run-off of the violent summer rains. This denudation has hastened the silting of the river channels and also helps to throw into their lower courses enormous loads of water that their levees cannot hold back. So high has the silt piled in their diked-in channels that most of the rivers actually have their bottoms higher than the surrounding land; as Mallory puts it, they are on the plain, not in it. Hence when a levee is breached the flood is trebly disastrous.

Once an area in northern China is under water, it may be months before it is drained again and ready for another crop. For not only are the large rivers confined between high earthen banks, but every small stream must be diked as well, and these dikes work "in reverse" after a flood, preventing the water from leaving the fields. Hence a summer flood may stand on the land all winter and long enough into the following spring to prevent the sowing of the next year's crop. One year's flood in China may thus bring two years' famine.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933



FRIENDLY GERMS

an address by

Dr. W. Lee Lewis

Director of the Department of Scientific Research of the Institute of American Meat Packers

To be given Friday, Sept. 1, at 1:45 p. m. Eastern Standard Time over stations of the Columbia Broadcasting system. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.

First Glances at New Books

See Also
Page 144

Medicine—Physics

AN ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK ON RADIUM AND ITS CLINICAL USE—D. F. Clephan and H. M. Hill—*Oxford University Press*, 164 p., \$2.50. As the use of radium therapy has become more wide-spread, the need of such a book has become apparent. Miss Clephan has been associated with radium therapy at Middlesex Hospital, London, for many years, and Mrs. Hill, as radium officer at the Royal Free Hospital, London, has had first hand experience in modern methods of treatment.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Ichthyology

FISHES: THEIR JOURNEYS AND MIGRATIONS—Louis Roule, transl. by Conrad Elphinstone—*Norton*, 270 p., \$3.75. Straightforward, easily flowing, popularly readable accounts of the life histories of eel, salmon, shad and a number of other interesting pelagic fishes.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Astronomy

THE COMPOSITION OF THE STARS—Henry Norris Russell—*Oxford University Press*, 31 p., 70c. The Halley lecture of June 1, 1933 delivered by the eminent astronomer of Princeton University.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Archaeology

TEPE HISSAR EXCAVATIONS 1931—E. F. Schmidt—*Univ. of Pennsylvania Museum*, 154 p., 99 pl., \$1.50. The Museum Journal has devoted its latest issue completely to discoveries by the Persian expedition led by Dr. Schmidt. At Tepe Hissar—"Castle Hill"—the first season of digging revealed three periods of ancient occupation, from about 3000 B.C. After the third settlement was wiped out, presumably by epidemic, the hill lay abandoned for 2,000 years when a Sassanian settlement, marked by the palace of a noble, rose on the border of the old habitation site.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Horticulture

IN A WEEK-END GARDEN—Maude Stewart Welch—*Sears*, 298 p., \$2.50. An easy, gossipy, rambling book about a garden and the people who went in and out, from March to February.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Anthropology—Psychology

SACRAMENTS OF SIMPLE FOLK—R. Marett—*Oxford University Press*, 230 p., \$3.75. Anthropological and psychological essays upon the consecration of natural functions, eating, fighting, mating, educating, ruling, judging, covenanting, healing and dying, written by the rector of Exeter College, Oxford.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

General Science

THE NEW STANDARD ENCYCLOPEDIA YEAR BOOK, 1932—Frank H. Vizetelly, editor—*Funk & Wagnalls*, 548 p., \$1.50. A concise alphabetical epitome of the events of 1932, designed to supplement the encyclopedia of the same publishers or to serve as a separate yearbook.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Agriculture

FOUNDATIONS FOR FARM RECOVERY—*Univ. of Wisconsin*, 31 p. The 1932 annual report of the Extension Service of the University of Wisconsin's College of Agriculture.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Horticulture—Sociology

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR SUBSISTENCE GARDENS—Joanna C. Colcord and Mary Johnston—*Russell Sage Foundation*, 74 p., 25c. Detailed description of the manner in which hard-put people have been helped to help themselves. This bulletin will still be of use, even though the long-awaited upswing gets started, for we've a long way to go.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Radio Engineering—Physics

WIRELESS RECEIVERS—C. W. Oatley—*Dutton*, 103 p., 85c. A thorough monograph giving a fairly detailed account of the fundamental principles involved in the design of wireless receivers. It is written by a member of the faculty of King's College, in London.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Astronomy—Physics

THE ASTRONOMICAL ASPECT OF THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY—W. de Sitter—*University of California Press*, 196 p., \$2.50. The Hitchcock lectures of 1932 delivered by the eminent Leiden mathematical physicist, with additions down to Jan. 30, 1933. Of interest to specialists.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

• First Glances at New Books

See Also
Page 144

Anthropology

THE LONG ROAD—Fay-Cooper Cole—*Williams and Wilkins*, 100 p., \$1. The "long road" is the road from savagery to civilization. How man has advanced along that road from the place where he was only "man-like" to stages where he gained new masteries and pioneered into higher modes of living is a long, dramatic story. Dr. Cole has packed the drama into a small space, thereby enabling the reader to take in the whole panorama in an evening's reading. The volume is one of "A Century of Progress" series.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

National Parks

RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK—*Dept. of the Interior (Canada)*, 23 p., Free. A handbook of one of the greatest of the Canadian national parks.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Medicine

DIET IN SINUS INFECTIONS AND COLDS—Egon V. Ulmann, recipes and menus by Elsa Mez—*Macmillan*, 166 p., \$2. Diets are so popular that it is no wonder one is being put forward for the cure of sinus infections and colds. Diet as the sole method of treating these ailments, however, has not been accepted by the medical profession generally. It would be wise to submit the book to one's physician before starting to follow its directions.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Vocational Science—Statistics

OCCUPATIONAL TRENDS IN MINNESOTA—Alvin H. Hansen and Tillman M. Sogge—*Univ. of Minnesota Press*, 115 p., 50c. Minnesota cities contain over 400 per cent. more truck drivers and stockbrokers than in the year 1910. But there is a decrease of 50 to 79 per cent. in blacksmiths, millers, and stenographers. In this period of readjustment, this analysis of the whither of occupational opportunities is most valuable. It is a publication of the Employment Stabilization Research Institute.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Psychology—Vocational Guidance

DO COLLEGE STUDENTS CHOOSE VOCATIONS WISELY?—Edward J. Sparling—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.*, 110 p., \$1.50. The answer to the title's question is that they do not. Most students want to enter a vocation requiring

much more intelligence than they possess, and 70 per cent. want to enter the three most overcrowded vocations in the United States. The sincerity of their vocational choices may be questioned, however, since they display a dearth of information regarding the preferred professions and only two per cent. had read to any extent the literature of the profession.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Paleontology

THE WORLD OF FOSSILS—Carroll Lane Fenton—*Appleton-Century*, 183 p., \$2. Dr. Fenton has the fortunate combination of a smooth and absorbingly interesting popular style in writing and the ability to make drawings of professional excellence and accuracy. This has enabled him to present his well-grounded knowledge of paleontology so entertainingly that if you start reading his book you will not sleep until you have finished it. A useful appendix tells where you can read more about the extinct animals to which his book has introduced you, and where you can see mounted skeletons and restorations of them. This is one of the Appleton New World of Science Series edited by Watson Davis.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Medicine

THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF WARFARE GASES: I. CHLORINE; II. MUSTARD—H. L. Gilchrist and P. B. Matz—*Govt. Printing Off.*, 93 p., 10c. General discussion of residual effects of two gases used in chemical warfare, with case histories of a number of soldiers examined eight or ten years after they had been gassed. This study will be of interest to industrial as well as to military physicians.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Radio

HINTS AND KINKS FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR—*American Radio Relay League*, 80 p., 50c. The radio amateur is one of the most inspiring phenomena of current American life. The spirit of the pioneer still lives in those who experiment in telegraphing and talking upon the short waves. The organization of radio amateurs has got together in this booklet a selection of practical money-saving ideas that have arisen from the experience of 189 radio amateur experimenters.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Mathematics

SCRIPTA MATHEMATICA, a new journal devoted to history and cultural values of mathematics, has informed the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER that it has a stock of reprints of three recent articles which can be obtained without cost by interested persons able to make use of them. The titles are: *Thomas Jefferson and Mathematics*, by David Eugene Smith; *The Meaning of Mathematics*, by Jackson Keyser; and *Two Magical Manuscripts*, by Joseph J. Schwartz. Requests for copies of these reprints should be addressed to Dr. Jekuthiel Ginsburg, Editor *Scripta Mathematica*, 74 West 176th Street, New York City.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Geography

RECREATIONAL AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES—*U. S. Natl. Park Service*. A map on which are shown all national parks and monuments, national forests and Indian reservations, national military parks, and state parks, forests, monuments and camp grounds, together with all the principal national highways, in the United States proper, Alaska and Hawaii. In issuing this map, the National Park Service has done a fine thing for everybody who vacations with a car.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Exploration

JUNGLE MEMORIES—Henry Hurd Rusby—*McGraw-Hill*, 388 p., \$3.50. A medical man's reminiscences, after a long and active career, of what he did and experienced in the Amazon basin half a century ago.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Economics

A YEARBOOK OF RAILROAD INFORMATION, 1933—*Committee on Public Relations of the Eastern Railroads*, 96 p.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Archreology

KARANIS—Edited by Arthur E. R. Boak—*Univ. of Michigan Press*, 93 p., 29 pl., 14 plans, \$2.50. This site has been especially rich in relics of everyday life in Egypt in the centuries around the turn of the Christian era. In this volume are described temples, coin hoards, and botanical and zoological remains found during the seasons of 1924 to 1931 by the University of Michigan expedition.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Pages 142 and 143

Astronomy—Biography

THE HERSCHEL CHRONICLE, The Life-Story of William Herschel and his sister Caroline Herschel—Edited by his granddaughter, Constance A. Lubbock—*Macmillan*, 388 p. \$6. Because of its many quotations from letters, papers, notes and journals, this biography is to a large extent a source book. It places Sir William and his sister Caroline in the setting of their family circle and of contemporary history. To those interested in the history of astronomy, or to those who wish a detailed account of the great Herschel, this is an imperative addition to the library shelf.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Geography

COMPTES RENDUS DU CONGRÈS INTERNATIONALE DE GEOGRAPHIE, PARIS, 1931, Tome II—Union Géographique Internationale—*Librairie Armand Colin, Paris*, 728 p. Proceedings of section two on physical geography.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

History

THE HISTORY OF THE BALKAN PENINSULA — Ferdinand Schevill — *Harcourt, Brace*, 614 p., \$5. A revised edition of a comprehensive work covering Balkan history from the earliest time to the present day.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Geology—Commerce

THE NATIONALITY OF COMMERCIAL CONTROL OF WORLD MINERALS—William P. Rawles—*American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers*, 44 p., 75c. This is the first of a series planned by the A.I.M.M.E.'s Mineral Inquiry to make factual studies of the world's mineral resources in their political and international relations. The overlapping of political and commercial control is set forth in this pamphlet for the following minerals: aluminum, chromite, copper, iron and steel, lead, manganese ore, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, nitrates, petroleum, potash, silver, sulphur, tin, tungsten, vanadium and zinc.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Education—General Science

THE SOUND MOTION PICTURE IN SCIENCE TEACHING—Phillip Justin Rulon—*Harvard University Press*, 236 p., \$2.50. A scholarly, yet practical inquiry into comparative usefulness of teaching science in high schools in a conventional manner and with the aid

of specially produced educational talkies. The study was conducted jointly by the Graduate School of Education and the University Film Foundation at Harvard University, and the schools used in the experiments were located in Massachusetts. In terms of immediate student achievement, teaching technique employing the motion picture film was 20.5 per cent. more effective from the instructional standpoint than was the usual unaided presentation.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Psychology

MUSICAL CAPACITY MEASURES OF CHILDREN REPEATED AFTER MUSICAL TRAINING—Hazel M. Stanton and Wilhelmine Koerth — *University of Iowa*, 48 p., 35c. One of the series on Aims and Progress of Research.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Marine Biology

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF CRUISES OF THE YACHTS "EAGLE" AND "ARA," 1921-1928, WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT, COMMANDING. COELENTERATA, ECHINODERMATA AND MOLLUSCA—Lee Boone—*Privately printed*, 217 p. Bulletin of the Vanderbilt Marine Museum, Volume IV.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Mathematics

FIRST YEAR ALGEBRA—Howard B. Kingsbury and R. R. Wallace—*Bruce*, 440 p., \$1.32. A text for high schools which can be used both in classes which meet college entrance requirements and those that give the pupils only a minimum of algebra. The appended summary of the historical development of algebra will give the student a background which is too often lacking. The authors are high school teachers of Milwaukee and Chicago.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Sociology

THE RURAL COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL CASE WORK—Josephine C. Brown—*Family Welfare Association of America*, 165 p., \$1. Containing not only concrete hints for the immediate use of the social worker, but also suggestions for a long-time program of social work in the country.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Psychology

THE FIRST TWO YEARS: PERSONALITY MANIFESTATIONS—Mary M. Shirley—*Univ. of Minnesota Press*, 228 p., \$2.50. The third and perhaps most interesting of this series of intimate studies of twenty-five babies. Do infants have distinctive personalities? Indeed they do, says the author, and this personality persists throughout the years of development.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Linguistics

THE PHONETIC VALUE OF CERTAIN CHARACTERS IN MAYA WRITING—Benjamin Lee Whorf—*Peabody Museum, Harvard*, 48 p., 75c. The view that the picture writing of the Mayan Indians was basically phonetic is revived in this monograph. Mr. Whorf has carried his study far enough to permit him to offer a specimen translation of a simple Maya text. Thus, the phonetic approach to the understanding of Maya writing, almost entirely abandoned for the past forty years, offers new hope for the deciphering of inscriptions and codices.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Botany

WILD FLOWERS OF NORTH DAKOTA—O. A. Stevens—*N. D. Agric. Coll.*, 51 p. There is much beauty in North Dakota springs and summers, for bloodroot and trillium troop through the timber-strips to meet the pasque flower and bluebell and goldenrod of the prairies and hills. Prof. Stevens tells their story briefly but adequately in this attractively illustrated bulletin.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

Economics

WORLD PROSPERITY AS SOUGHT THROUGH THE ECONOMIC WORK OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS—Wallace McClure—*Macmillan*, 613 p., \$4. Well documented and informative, this is a history and exposition of the widespread economic work of the League, which touches nearly every facet of the commercial, sociological, governmental, and intellectual work of the world. The author is now assistant chief of the treaty division of the Department of State.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1933

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