

however, a scientific treatise, too technical for the layman, even though he be greatly interested in the new knowledge of this important gland that is responsible for such strange conditions as dwarfism and giantism.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

Physics—Engineering

THE REDUCTION OF NOISE IN BUILDINGS: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ARCHITECTS—Hope Bagenal and P. W. Barnett—*His Majesty's Stationery Office*, 29 p., 9d. This bulletin considers how noise and disturbance due to transmitted sound will be minimized in buildings. Of practical value is a compilation of types of construction with the sound reductions that they cause.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

Engineering—Economics

THE POWER AGE—Walter N. Polakoff—*Covici Friede*, 247 p., \$2. We have outgrown the technique of the machine age, the author argues. A new production technique, power production, characterizes the new power age. The power age does not have bigger and better machines than those of the machine age but it is characterized "by a different kind of machine, conditioning a different kind of production, which results in a different kind of economy and a different kind of social relations." This book is a highly pertinent contribution to the discussion of the relationship between science and man which has been intensified by present economic conditions.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

General Science

OFFICIAL CATALOG OF EXHIBITS IN THE DIVISION OF THE BASIC SCIENCES—*Century of Progress*, 144 p., 15c. As a written and pictorial record of the



Cornelia Clarke Photo

LOWLIEST LIFE RIDES THE AIR

Almost any log you step over, during an autumnal woodland ramble, can show, on some bit of its bark, a colony of tiny stalked globes. Through your hand lens they will look like tiny balloons about to take off on an elfin Gordon Bennett race. But they are only the spore-cases of one species of Mycetoza, or slime-molds, called Myxomycetes by earlier biologists. They represent the fruiting stage of one of the lowest forms of life—a creature so humble that it can not with certainty be called either animal or plant. The little globes do not float off through the air, but the millions of dust-like spores within them do, and the very few of them that fall on a favorable substrate renew the life cycle next year.

scientific sights that millions saw in the Hall of Science at the Century of Progress, this catalog performs a useful service.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

General Science

THE LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE—J. W. N. Sullivan—*Viking Press*, 307 p., \$2.75. A readable discussion of the fundamentals of science as they have been modified by increasing knowledge, presented with historical perspective, philosophical feeling and an eye cocked toward the future. For those who enjoy Eddington, Jeans, Whitehead, Russell, et al.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

Geography

NORTHERN LIGHTS—F. Spencer Chapman—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 304 p., \$5. This official account of the British Arctic air-route expedition is a creditable addition to the epics of explorations in the Polar regions. It will be remembered that the leader of this expedition was Henry George Watkins who, on a second and supplementary expedition, had his career cut short tragically at the age of twenty-five.

Science News Letter, October 21, 1933

Geography—Exploration

THE EMPTY QUARTER—H. St. J. B. Philby—*Holt*, 432 p., 32 illus., \$4. A ninety-day journey through the famous Empty Quarter of Arabia, a land so little known that in 1930 His Majesty King 'Ali spoke of it as an innermost recess of his empire that he desired to see explored. Mr. Philby works hard at his job, and so along with the running narrative of adventure there is explanation of what this Empty Quarter contains. Ancient ruins, apparently, it does not contain. The legendary wicked city of Wabar destroyed by fire from heaven proves to be a volcano. Nomads have been almost the only inhabitants of the dry region. But the singing sands, meteorites, freshwater shells, animal and plant life, show that the Empty Quarter is far from being barren of scientific interest.

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