

• First Glances at New Books

Physics

SCIENCE AND THE HUMAN TEMPERAMENT — Erwin Schrödinger — *W. W. Norton*, 216 p., \$2.50. Discussion by the 1933 Nobel Prize winner of the backgrounds of the new quantum mechanics on which modern physics now rests its hopes of understanding the universe. Written for laymen, the book must, of necessity, concentrate on the philosophical aspects of quantum mechanics and discusses the age-old questions of determinism vs. indeterminism in nature, the laws of chance and causality. But, more and more philosophy enters into physics. Says Prof. Schrödinger, "The old links between philosophy and physical science, after having been temporarily frayed in many places, are being more closely renewed. The farther physical science progresses the less can it dispense with philosophical criticism. But at the same time philosophers are increasingly obliged to become intimately acquainted with the sphere of research, to which they undertake to prescribe the governing laws of knowledge."

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Mechanics

ELEMENTARY MECHANICS—Joseph B. Reynolds—*Prentice-Hall*, 336 p., \$2.75. Revised edition of a college text.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Chemistry

THE NEW WORLD OF CHEMISTRY—Bernard Jaffe—*Silver, Burdett*, 599 p., \$1.80. An elementary chemistry textbook written by the chairman of the physical sciences department of one of New York's largest high schools. An attempt is made and succeeds in humanizing the science by weaving into the book part of the struggle which research chemists and physicists go through in creating chemistry as it is.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Botany

POISONOUS PLANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA—Edward H. Graham—*Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*, 15 p., 10c.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Ethnology

RUSSIA: A NEW HISTORY—Ivar Steenstrup—*Metropolitan Press*, 222 p., \$2. The small size of this book is deceptive. It is no primer-history, but a compact volume for those interested in probing the forces of culture, race, and personality that have figured in Russia's story. The author states his conviction that

there has been no text book on Russian history which adequately meets the needs of American college students, and for this type of student, the book was especially written.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Ornithology

THE HAWKS OF NORTH AMERICA, THEIR FIELD IDENTIFICATION AND FEEDING HABITS—John B. May—*National Assn. of Audubon Societies*, 140 p., \$1.25. Adequate accounts of the appearance, habits and range of American hawks, with helpful little distribution maps inserted in the text. There are dozens of beautiful full-page illustrations in color by Allan Brooks, and many pages more of careful recognition sketches in black-and-white by R. P. Peterson.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Archaeology

PROGRESS IN ARCHAEOLOGY—Stanley Casson—*Whittlesey House*, 111 p., \$2. A non-technical account of recent achievements by archaeologists throughout the world. With only nine pages to devote to America, and but eleven to give to the East from Iraq to India, the author adroitly manages to touch the high points of significant discovery, and also to summarize results. Most of the discoveries described date from the period since the War.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Geology

LABORATORY MANUAL FOR GENERAL GEOLOGY (PHYSICAL AND HISTORICAL)—Mark Howard Sechrist—*Macmillan*, 295 p., \$1.75.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Meteorology

THE CANADIAN CLIMATE — Clarence Eugene Koeppel — *McKnight & McKnight*, 280 p., \$3.32. Anybody interested in weather in the United States must perforce be interested in Canadian weather; for it is in the great Dominion to our north that a great deal of our weather takes shape. A compact but decently complete book like this is therefore an excellent thing to have available.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Zoology

THE VAMPIRE BAT, A PRESENTATION OF UNDESCRIBED HABITS AND REVIEW OF ITS HISTORY—Raymond L. Ditmars and Arthur M. Greenhall—*New York Zoological Soc., Zoologica*, Vol. XIX, No. 2, p. 53—76, 30c plus postage. The ghoulish and quite imaginary accounts that have filled the world's "vampire" literature have given the actual, existing vampire bat a semi-legendary character also. This brief publication will therefore be welcomed by every one who really wishes to get a "straight story" on this interesting animal.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Radio

THE BEGINNER'S STORY OF RADIO—B. Francis Dashiell—*Radex Press*, 96 p., 75c. A boy's book on electricity as applied to radio. Compact and bound in stiff paper, it shows the underlying principles plus many wiring diagrams of standard circuits.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Natural History

AN ALMANAC FOR MODERNS—Donald Culross Peattie—*Putnam*, 396 p., \$3. Each day is given its appropriate little essay, by a careful student of nature who also has some literary pretensions. The subjects range from Orion to bees and orchids, from biographical sketches of Thoreau and Lamarck to the lives of salmon and butterflies.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Botany

A TEXTBOOK OF MYCOLOGY—Ernst A. Bessey—*Blakiston's*, 495 p., \$4. General botanists as well as plant pathologists will welcome this new textbook. Most of the mycological literature has been either "pointed at" plant pathology or at field studies of the fleshy fungi. There has been a distinct need for a single-volume up-to-date work on the general biology of the fungi, with the treatment of various groups kept in proper balance. The bibliography of recognition-literature (73 pages!) is especially worthy of commendation.

Science News Letter, May 18, 1935

Science News Letter will secure for its subscribers any book or magazine in print which was published in the United States. Send check or money order to cover regular retail price (\$5 if price is unknown, change to be remitted) and we will pay postage in the U. S. When publications are free, send 10c. for handling. Address Book Dept., Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.
