

# • First Glances at New Books

## Nature

A NATURE SKETCHBOOK—William Ray Allen—*University of Kentucky*, 209 p., 75c. single copy, three copies, 50c each, ten or more copies to the same address, 40c. A series of radio talks made into an informal book, with camera illustrations by the author. It combines real field knowledge of biology, esthetic and philosophic appreciation of the phenomena observed, and salty touches of plain horse-sense: "Q: Is it bad luck to kill a spider? A: It is to the spider."

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Archaeology

THE MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN EUROPE—J. G. D. Clark—*Cambridge, Macmillan*, 284 p., 74 figs., 8 pl., \$9. The Mesolithic, as defined in this volume, is the culture that flourished in point of time between civilizations of the Old Stone Age and the New. Dr. Clark describes this 6,000-year period fully, taking into account the profound changes in geography and in animal and plant life that unfolded while man in Northern Europe developed three groups of cultures. Of special interest are the discussions of pollen analysis and clay varves as means of dating remains of this period.

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Astrophysics

THEORETICAL ASTROPHYSICS — S. Rosseland—*Oxford University Press*, 355 p., \$8. In this volume a bird's eye-view of our knowledge of stellar atmospheres and envelopes is projected upon atomic physics as a background. Its twenty-three chapters present a full mathematical and physical picture of the constitutions of stellar atmospheres, gaseous nebulae, and inter-stellar clouds, as well as principles and theories of astrophysics. But the introduction is an easily readable summation of what the study of light told us about the composition of the universe.

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## Ethnology

THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIANS IN THEIR PUEBLO LIFE THROUGH THE REVIVAL OF THEIR TRADITIONAL CRAFTS—Henrietta K. Burton—*Teachers College, Columbia University*, 96 p., \$1.60. This experiment at one pueblo, San Ildefonso, indicates that simple methods of reviving ancestral craftwork can bring greater

economic security to an Indian group. The pueblo also improved in its morale and general community life. While not all tribes have such an art heritage as these gifted pottery makers, the author points out that each tribe has some occupation which can be utilized for its re-establishment.

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## History

HISTORY OF EARLY IRAN—George G. Cameron—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 260 p., \$3. With the unearthing of Near Eastern cities, there is growing interest in the early history of the region. This book fills in one of the gaps on the ancient history shelf, by going far back of Cyrus the Persian and building up events on the Iranian plateau from pre-historic times. Much of the land's history, however, still lies buried in mounds, awaiting discovery, the author reminds us.

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## Exploration

THE PILOTS' BOOK OF EVEREST—The Marquess of Douglas and Clydesdale and D. F. M'Intyre—*Doubleday, Doran*, 270 p., \$2.75. The eventful story of the first two successful flights over the world's highest mountain, told this time by the men who piloted the planes and came safely through, as another Britisher puts it, "by discipline and nerve and trained judgment."

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Anthropology

ESSAYS IN ANTHROPOLOGY IN HONOR OF ALFRED LOUIS KROEBER—*Univ. of California Press*, 433 p., \$6.50. In honor of Prof. Kroeber's sixtieth birthday, 36 anthropologists in this country and abroad have contributed papers for this elaborate and interesting volume. The subjects appropriately range over the various fields of anthropology that have claimed the attention of Prof. Kroeber himself. The volume opens suitably with chapters of personal reminiscence and professional appreciation by two confrères of this distinguished man of science.

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## Reference Books

THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PLACE-NAMES — Eilert Ekwall—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 520 p., \$5. This volume covers the map of England very thoroughly, giving the pronunciation, origin, and perhaps a bit of history for each town, hamlet, river, or lake. Special attention is given to the etymology of the names.

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Geology—Paleontology

BIG BONE LICK—Willard Rouse Jillson—*The Standard Printing Co.*, 164 p., \$2. Dr. Jillson, former state geologist of Kentucky, calls Big Bone Lick "the most extraordinary depository of bones of the great hoofed animals of the Glacial Age in America." Fame of this graveyard of the mammoth made it for years a collector's paradise, and now the devastated scene is a tragic reminder of what persistent bone hunting can do to wreck a site that "deserved, and still deserves, a better fate." Dr. Jillson tells the story vividly.

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Archaeology

TWO PUEBLO RUINS IN WEST CENTRAL ARIZONA—Edward H. Spicer and Louis P. Caywood—*Univ. of Arizona*, 115 p., 57 illus., 50c. Reports excavation of King's Ruin and Fitzmaurice Ruin, both tentatively dated in the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. The King's Ruin pueblo was preceded by an earlier settlement of pit dwellings.

*Science News Letter, August 15, 1936*

## Archaeology

EXCAVATIONS AT THERMI IN LESBOS—Winifred Lamb—*Cambridge (Macmillan)*, 226 p., 50 pl., \$18.50. A comprehensive report of excavations at an island town that was once an important contemporary of famous Troy. Relationships with Troy and Mycenae are discussed. The site was chosen because it offered the chance to explore five successive towns, represented by stratified remains, thus providing much material for studying the succession of cultures and relationships in this region.

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