

•First Glances at New Books

BIOGRAPHY—GENERAL SCIENCE

MODERN AMERICANS IN SCIENCE AND INVENTION—Edna Yost—*Stokes*, 270 p., \$2. Popular biographies of Ezra Cornell, John Francis Appleby, Stephen Smith, Samuel F. Langley, John Brashear, Ambrose Swasey, William Crawford Gorgas, Harvey Washington Wiley, Elmer A. Sperry, George Washington Carver, Leo Hendrik Baekeland, Willis H. Carrier, Charles F. Kettering, Frederick G. Cottrell, Robert R. Williams, Vladimir K. Zworykin, and Emil Truog.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

GENERAL SCIENCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, Annual Report 1940—*Rockefeller Foundation*, 49 West 49th St., New York City, 473 p., illus. Free upon direct application to the Rockefeller Foundation. The periodic account to the world for many and widespread activities of this great institution. Almost every corner of the globe and every field of intellectual endeavor, in a very broad sense of the word, are affected by the carefully planned and executed operations which make the dollars bestowed produce mightily. President Raymond B. Fosdick's review is especially valuable because of its broad outlook upon world affairs.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

NATURAL HISTORY

HOW MIRACLES ABOUND—Bertha Stevens—*John Day*, 200 p., illus., \$2.50. This book is intended for reading by parents and teachers, but children of seven or eight or nine and older will benefit indirectly. In a sense each chapter is first-aid to grown-ups who have to answer the many question marks that children spread over the face of the world. The information is poetically and competently expressed, with suggestions for more detailed books to be used while teaching or informing the child, and sources of simple science materials. The illustrations maintain the quality and atmosphere of the text.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

POLITICAL SCIENCE

OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS—Writers' Program, Work Projects Administration, District of Columbia—*Hastings House*, 272 p., \$2.50. The "Government" is dissected department by department, with brief but clear and accurate exposition of how each works. The seemingly innumerable commissions, boards, etc., that make up the

bewildering "alphabet soup" are explained one by one, as well as semi- and quasi-governmental organizations like the National Academy of Sciences and the Federal Reserve System.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

ANATOMY—PHYSIOLOGY

HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY—Nellie D. Millard and Barry G. King—*Saunders*, 525 p., illus., \$3. A text book for nurses.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

CHEMISTRY

GENERAL CHEMISTRY (4th ed.)—Harry N. Holmes—*Macmillan*, 720 p., \$3.75. The fourth edition of this work is considerably larger in format, more popular in style, and more attractive in appearance than the third edition, which appeared only five years ago. The text has been brought up to the minute especially in the sections on petroleum refining, synthetic rubber, synthetic textiles (including "Nylon"), beryllium, and the alloy steels. A short chapter has been added on "Strategic Raw Materials".

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

BIOLOGY—GEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO STUDIES, Series D. Physical and Biological Sciences, Vol. I, No. 3—*University of Colorado*, 100 p., \$1.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHIC EMULSION TECHNIQUE—T. Thorne Baker—*Amer. Photographic Pub. Co.*, 263 p., illus., \$4. This book gives complete information on the making of photographic emulsions from the time of Daguerre down to the super-speed films of today. The author's 35 years' experience in the field qualify him for the task.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

LANGUAGE

PHONETICS, An Introduction to the Principles of Phonetic Science from the Point of View of English Speech—Claude E. Kantner and Robert West—*Harper*, 418 p., illus., \$3.50. The title carries its own thumbnail description of this text, but it may be added that the book emphasizes fundamentals, devotes great care to oral geography, and the authors are two well-known university professors of speech. The book is intended for college classes in phonetics and for teachers.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

MILITARY SCIENCE

PLANNED A. R. P. (First American ed.)—Tecton, Architects—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 138 p., illus., \$2.50. Air-raid protection for the entire population of a city is planned out in this British book. Large shelters, air conditioning, electric lighting, decontamination chambers, etc., and the protective value of various types of shelters, are discussed.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

GEOGRAPHY

MICHIGAN, A Guide to the Wolverine State—Compiled by workers of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Michigan—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 682 p., illus., \$3. Michigan, with its industries, sports, touring possibilities, and the rest of its personality, makes one of the bulkier volumes in the WPA series of guide books on the states. These often praised books maintain a high standard, providing as they do informative and readable reference data on what each state is really like.

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PHYSICS

MUSICAL ACOUSTICS—Charles A. Culver—*Blakiston*, 194 p., illus., \$2.50. This work is designed to give musicians a knowledge of the fundamental laws of acoustics which are the basis of their art. It explains the operation of musical instruments, the mechanism of hearing, and the acoustics of rooms.

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MATHEMATICS

THE ELEMENTS OF STATISTICS—Elmer B. Mode—*Prentice-Hall*, 378 p., \$3.50. All the operations concerned in the reading, representation, and interpretation of statistics are simply explained in this book, such as index numbers, frequency curves, average and median values, curve fitting, correlation, measures of reliability, etc. No mathematics beyond secondary school geometry and algebra is required at the start, but the reader is later instructed in the use of logarithms, the slide rule, and the method of least squares.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1941

MEDICINE

VISION, A Study of Its Basis—S. Howard Bartley—*Van Nostrand*, 350 p., \$3.50. A handbook for scientists and students representing the physiological phase in the study of vision.

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