

•First Glances at New Books

BIOGRAPHY—MEDICINE

WILLIAM HENRY WELCH AND THE HEROIC AGE OF AMERICAN MEDICINE—Simon Flexner and James Thomas Flexner—*Viking Press*, 539 p., \$3.75. A biography of the late, great Johns Hopkins bacteriologist called "Popsy" by his students and half of Baltimore. From an etching of a reluctant New York medical student in the 1870's, the book deepens to become a full portrait in oils of Dr. William Henry Welch, dean of American medicine, and "among the first American prophets of scientific medicine." Dr. Welch is principally known for his discovery of the gas-producing bacteria named for him. But as first dean of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine he began the proof, no longer necessary, that American medical schools can equal and surpass those of Europe. The Flexners have written a biography of American medicine as well as of a man; and their story of Dr. Welch shows him not always the formidable scientist, but sometimes a gentle humorist who loved practical jokes and the 'chute-the-chutes' and hot dogs at Coney Island.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

AGRICULTURE

VEGETABLE GROWING (3d ed.)—James Edward Knott—*Lea & Febiger*, 356 p., illus., \$3.25. Third edition of a successful text, highly useful in agricultural college classes.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

LANGUAGE

LANGUAGE IN ACTION—S. I. Hayakawa—*Harcourt, Brace*, 345 p., \$2. We use words and are affected by them almost constantly, yet most of us never get around to taking stock of the tools and swords that words actually constitute. Prof. Hayakawa, who was born in Canada and now teaches English at the Illinois Institute of Technology, has a gift for stimulating others to think more analytically about meanings, "loaded" words, propaganda, and naive and primitive assumption. Citizens of a modern society, he says, need more than horse sense; "they need to be scientifically aware of the mechanisms of interpretation."

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

MEDICINE—PSYCHOLOGY—HISTORY

A HISTORY OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY—Gregory Zilboorg and George W. Henry—*Norton*, 606 p., \$5. An unusually important book because it is the first complete history of medical psychology. It

records the gradual and often painful steps by which mental illness was finally acknowledged to be the concern of medicine—and not the sole domain of quacks and mystics. Not the least dramatic phase of this progress was the establishment of mental hospitals whose purpose was to heal and not merely to confine. Pioneer in this effort was an American, Dorothea Lynde Dix. The story of her battle for decent mental hospitals does not end with her life, but is still a current one in many sections of this country.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

ENDOCRINOLOGY

FROM CRETIN TO GENIUS—Serge Voronoff—*Alliance Book Corp.*, 281 p., \$2.75. An interesting, but overly sensational volume on popular endocrinology. Many of Dr. Voronoff's statements are strongly contested by more: conservative scientists. The book should be read for entertainment rather than instruction.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

AERONAUTICS

AIRFRAMES, Part 3—E. Molloy and E. W. Knott, eds.—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 132 p., illus., \$2.50. Volume 14 of a series on "Aeroplane Maintenance and Operation". This volume contains directions for rigging, dismantling, assembling, maintenance and lubrication for the Bristol "Blenheim," Taylorcraft, Cunningham-Hall, and Douglas airplanes with a concluding chapter devoted to repair of metal hulls and floats.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

PHOTOGRAPHY

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY, The Studio Annual of Camera Art, 1941-1942—C. G. Holme, ed.—*Studio*, 120 p., illus., paper \$2.50; cloth, \$3.50. A beautiful volume with photographs of peace and war; instants of tense crisis; passing horrors; and, in contrast, the eternal loveliness of sky and earth and sea and a baby's smiling eyes.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

AERONAUTICS

ENGINES—E. Molloy and E. W. Knott, eds.—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, Part I, 124 p.; Part II, 132 p.; Part III, 132 p., \$2.50 ea. Volumes 5, 9, and 13 of a series on "Aeroplane Maintenance and Operation." These volumes are devoted to the maintenance and repair of several types of English airplane engines and two of American make—the Wright Cyclone and Continental.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

GEOGRAPHY

THAILAND, the New Siam—Virginia Thompson—*Macmillan*, 865 p., \$5. Surmounting difficulties of gathering information from qualified observers and government sources, the author has produced a comprehensive study of the land of the white elephant. The book includes a history of Siam and its transition into a new democratic-minded state, and from there on modern Thailand's many-sided problems are set forth in factual detail.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

ETHNOLOGY—ANTHROPOLOGY

DEEP SOUTH, A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class—Allison Davis, Burleigh B. Gardner and Mary R. Gardner—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 558 p., \$4.50. To make this study of Negroes in a typical trade center of the cotton growing region, four anthropologists, a white man and his wife and a Negro and his wife, lived in the community for two years. They report the anxieties, frustrations, efforts at adjustment of the Negroes and the handicaps and needs of their situation.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

ECONOMICS

NATION AND FAMILY, The Swedish Experiment in Democratic Family and Population Policy—Alva Myrdal—*Harcourt*, 441 p., \$4. Writing while totalitarian war disrupts Europe, the author looks ahead to post-war reconstruction and foresees: "A new interest will attach to productive investment in a nation's chief economic asset: children and their health and capabilities." Her book is written for English-speaking countries, telling what may be useful from Sweden's population studies and reforms in the past ten years.

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

ANTHROPOLOGY

CULTURE ELEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS: XVII YUMAN-PIMAN—Philip Drucker—*Univ. of Calif Press*, 139 p., \$1.25. (Anthropological Records, Vol. 6, No. 3.)

Science News Letter, December 27, 1941

ETHNOLOGY

JUNGLE PEOPLE: A Kaingáng Tribe of the Highlands of Brazil—Jules Henry—*Augustin*, 215 p., \$3.50. An anthropologist who lived for a year among these Indian farmer-hunters tells about their primitive living and thinking, particularly the old ways which they evolved before white men influenced their culture.

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