

First Glances at New Books

GENETIC STUDIES OF GENIUS. VOLUME I. MENTAL AND PHYSICAL TRAITS OF A THOUSAND GIFTED CHILDREN. By Lewis M. Terman and others. Stanford University. Stanford University Press. \$5.00.

This comprehensive volume indicates that the superior child is at last being taken seriously as a national resource of importance, and that some attempt may be made to conserve and develop this neglected asset. For the first time in history a large group of gifted school children has been studied to learn how they differ from average children in mental and physical traits, and the results have been reported with many tables and charts so that the work will undoubtedly be a standard reference for some years to come.

OUTWITTING MIDDLE AGE. By Carl Ramus. New York. The Century Co. 1926. \$2.00.

A summary in popular language of the many means used by modern men in their effort to escape the final tax of Nature.

TREES IN WINTER. By A. F. Blakeslee and C. D. Jarvis. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1926. \$2.50.

A reprinting of a very successful and most useful book for supplementary use in botany classes, as well as for the general reader who has a fondness for trees and winter hiking.

ABSTRACTS OF THESES: SCIENCE SERIES, VOL. II., 1923-1924. Chicago. The University of Chicago Press. 1926.

The essential points of all doctors' theses submitted in the graduate schools of science at the University of Chicago during the year 1923-1924. It is to be hoped that this practice will become general among American universities.

FERTILIZERS. By Edward B. Voorhees. Second revised edition by Sidney B. Haskell. New York. The Macmillan Co. 1926. \$2.50.

A reprinting of a book that has been standard in its field for nearly a generation, with revisions that bring it down to date.

ENZYMES. By Selman A. Waksman and Wilburt C. Davison. Baltimore. The Williams and Wilkins Co. 1926. \$5.50.

Researches in the physiology of the enzymes stride forward so fast that it is impossible to keep up with them in the scattered literature. The au-

thors of this book therefore have performed a real service to students in gathering and digesting this great mass of material, and presenting it here in compact, clear and authoritative form. A bibliography of over 1,300 titles bears witness to the completeness of their task.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL PAPERS. 1903-1913. By Benjamin Osgood Peirce. Cambridge. Harvard University Press. 1926. \$5.00.

A collection of practically all the papers published by Prof. Peirce during the last ten years of his life. It includes papers on magnetism and other electrical topics.

THE YOUNG FOLK'S BOOK OF INVENTION. By T. C. Bridges. Boston. Little, Brown and Co., 1926. \$2.00.

The story of the steamboat, printing press, radio, movies, automobile, airplane and many other modern inventions, written for children between 10 and 15.

THE ROMANCE OF COMETS. By Mary Proctor. New York. Harper & Bros. 1926. \$2.50.

The daughter of the late Sir Richard Proctor, one of the best known popularizers of astronomy, writes in a lucid and interesting manner on the celestial visitors which used to strike terror into the hearts of men, but now are regarded principally as a spectacle.

THE YOUNG FOLK'S BOOK OF THE HEAVENS. By Mary Proctor. Boston. Little, Brown and Co. 1926. \$2.00.

The story of the stars written for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15, interspersed with a large amount of interesting mythological lore of the heavens.

TRANSPORT AVIATION. By Archibald Black. New York. Simmons-Boardman Publishing Co. 1926. \$3.00.

The first adequate discussion of commercial aviation. It deals with the achievements that have already been, describing and illustrating the principal types of planes in use, and in addition contains figures on costs and investments of interest to the investor.

NEW METHODS IN EXTERIOR BALLISTICS. By Forest Ray Moulton. Chicago. University of Chicago Press. 1926. \$2.50.

A new book on the theory of ballistics that deals with the new problems raised by such novelties as long range fire and barrage fire, written by a professor of astronomy at the University of Chicago, who, during the war, found the mathematics that he had

used for computing the course of a comet was also of use in calculating the path of a projectile from a large gun.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PHYSICAL OPTICS. By Ernst Mach. Translated from the German by John S. Anderson and A. F. A. Young. New York. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1926. \$6.00.

A complete treatise on the fundamental concepts of physical optics by the late professor of inductive science at the University of Vienna, now for the first time available in English.

RAIN MAKING AND OTHER WEATHER VAGARIES. By W. J. Humphries. Baltimore. Williams and Wilkins Company. 1926. \$2.50.

An interestingly written little book exposing many popular weather superstitions, by one of America's foremost weather authorities.

EXPLORING LIFE—THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS A. WATSON. New York. D. Appleton & Co. 1926. \$3.50.

A volume of interesting reminiscences of the man who heard the first words ever spoken over a telephone.

THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES. By Florence Armstrong Grondal. New York. The Macmillan Company. 1926. \$5.00.

A voluminous book, written by a stellar enthusiast, but with numerous errors that more scientific knowledge on the part of the author would have avoided.

BIRTH CONTROL AND THE STATE. By C. P. Blacker. Today and Tomorrow Series. New York. E. P. Dutton and Co.

An unprejudiced resume of the arguments for and against birth control with an intelligent forecast as to the direction this important movement will probably take with religious, scientific and political aspects duly stressed.

THE INFLUENCE OF NURTURE UPON NATIVE DIFFERENCES. By Truman L. Kelley. New York. The Macmillan Co.

Younger children are individuals more truly than school-trained, convention-abiding older children, is Dr. Kelley's finding, as a result of a statistical inquiry into the training vs. heredity problem. In this small book he reduces nature, nurture, and mentality factors to equations and reports on the application of his method to mental performances of both normal and gifted children.

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