

## First Glances at New Books

**SYMBIOTICISM AND THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES**—Ivan E. Wallin—*Williams and Wilkins*. (\$3.) The author contends that many cell inclusions, notably mitochondria and their derivatives, the plastids, are descended from originally symbiotic organisms, and argues from known morphological modifications caused by symbionts and endoparasites for the possibility of the origin of species through the influence of these mitochondrial "organisms."

Science News-Letter, February 5, 1927

**HOUSE PLANTS**—Emma Davis—*Cornell Rural School Leaflet, Vol. 20, No. 3*. An attractive and practical presentation of the fundamentals of indoor horticulture. It is a pity that this series is not available for distribution outside of New York State.

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**MODERN BUSINESS GEOGRAPHY**—Ellsworth Huntington and Sumner W. Cushing—*World Book Co.* (\$2). Intended as a text for students who have completed elementary geography courses; it is also an excellent "background" book on geography for teachers of any school grade.

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**THE STONE AGE IN RHODESIA**—Neville Jones—Foreword by Sir Arthur Keith—*Oxford University Press*. A narrative setting forth in the simplest possible language all that is so far known of Stone Age Rhodesia.

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**TROPICAL CYCLONES**—Isaac M. Cline—*Macmillan* (\$5). Some new views on these frequently destructive storms by a meteorologist who has had forty years' experience with them.

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**AMERICAN LABOR AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**, Vols. 1 and 2—William English Walling—*Workers Education Bureau Series* (\$1). A comprehensive statement of the political and social policy of the American Federation of Labor written on the basis of labor union documents by a man who has had direct acquaintance with the leaders of the movement and their purposes. The author traces the labor movement through the past forty years and shows the evolution of a new policy for the government of industry, a new political method and view of political government.

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# Important American Books of 1925

Out of the millions of books published throughout the world, a world list of 600 important books each year is being selected under the auspices of the Committee on International Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations.

The United States was given the privilege of naming 40 of these books and the American National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation delegated the task of compiling the honor list to the American Library Association. The final list of notable books published in 1925, limited to 37 because of the difficulty of choice, has just been announced.

Twenty of the 37 books deal with or relate to the various physical and natural sciences, while three others are classified under social science.

The list as issued is:

### HISTORY

**JEFFERSON AND HAMILTON**—C. G. Bowers—*Houghton*.

**HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, VOL. VI—THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE**—Edward Channing—*Macmillan*.

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

**SEVENTY YEARS OF LIFE AND LABOR**—Samuel Gompers—*Dutton*.

**CREATIVE YOUTH**—Hughes Mearns—*Double-day*.

**CONGRESS, THE CONSTITUTION AND THE SUPREME COURT**—Charles Warren—*Little*.

### RELIGION

**STRANGER THAN FICTION**—Lewis Browne—*Macmillan*.

**RELIGION OF YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW**—Kirsopp Lake—*Houghton*.

**ISRAEL**—Ludwig Lewisohn—*Boni & Liveright*.

### PHILOSOPHY

**EXPERIENCE AND NATURE**—John Dewey—*Open Court*.

**THE MENTAL GROWTH OF THE PRESCHOOL CHILD**—A. L. Gesell—*Macmillan*.

**DIALOGUES IN LIMBO**—George Santayana—*Scribner*.

### BELLES LETTRES AND ART

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A MAN WHO LOVED THE STARS**—John A. Brashear—*Houghton*.

**THE LIFE OF SIR WILLIAM OSLER, 2 V.**—Harvey W. Cushing—*Oxford*.

**ROAN STALLION, TAMAR AND OTHER POEMS**—Robinson Jeffers—*Boni & Liveright*.

**BOOK OF AMERICAN NEGRO SPIRITUALS**—James W. Johnson, ed.—*Viking*.

**TWO LIVES**—Wm. E. Leonard—*Viking*.

**JOHN KEATS, 2 V.**—Amy Lowell—*Houghton*.

**THE ADVENTURES OF AN ILLUSTRATOR**—Joseph Pennell—*Little*.

**ONE MAN'S LIFE**—Herbert Quick—*Bobbs*.

**DIONYSUS IN DOUBT**—E. A. Robinson—*Macmillan*.

### GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

**JUNGLE DAYS**—William Beebe—*Putnam*.

**NORTH AMERICA**—Joseph R. Smith—*Harcourt*.

### PHILOLOGY AND LITERARY HISTORY

**THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN AMERICA, 2 V.**—G. P. Krapp—*Century*.

**LITERATURE OF THE MIDDLE-WESTERN FRONTIER, 2 V.**—R. L. Rusk—*Columbia*.

### NATURAL SCIENCE

**CALCULUS OF VARIATIONS**—G. A. Bliss—*Open Court*.

**WHY WE BEHAVE LIKE HUMAN BEINGS**—G. A. Dorsey—*Harper*.

**CHEMICAL ACTION OF ULTRA-VIOLET RAY**—Carleton Ellis and A. A. Wells—*Chemical Catalog*.

**NEW ENGLAND-ACADIAN SHORE LINE**—D. W. Johnson—*Wiley*.

**ELEMENTS OF PHYSICAL BIOLOGY**—A.

J. Lotka—*Williams & Wilkins*.

**METEORS**—C. P. Olivier—*Williams & Wilkins*.

**STELLAR ATMOSPHERES**—C. H. Payne—*Harvard*.

**NORTH AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS, VOL. I**—M. V. Walcott—*Smithsonian*.

**SCIENCE AND THE MODERN WORLD**—A. N. Whitehead—*Macmillan*.

**OSTEOLOGY OF THE REPTILES**—S. W. Williston—*Harvard*.

### APPLIED SCIENCE

**THE INVENTION OF PRINTING IN CHINA**—T. F. Carter—*Columbia*.

**INDUSTRIAL POISONS IN THE UNITED STATES**—Alice Hamilton—*Macmillan*.

**THE BIOLOGY OF POPULATION GROWTH**—Raymond Pearl—*Knopf*.

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### PHYSICS

## Wonders of Science

(Thoughts on learning that the image of a cabbage as transmitted by television can be converted into sound, turned into a gramophone record, and then, when the record is played, the sound can be converted back into the picture of a cabbage.)

I have seen the turnips singing  
By a lordly cabbage led;  
I have heard a dewdrop clinging  
To the rose that bowed her head;  
I have sniffed at a sonata,  
I have touched next Friday week;  
I have tasted a cantata  
I have smelt a sausage speak.

Hours by acres I've divided  
And I've proved the answer right;  
And I've frequently collided  
With a week last Friday night;  
And of miracles my fund is  
Unexhausted even then—  
I have climbed a month of Sundays  
And tobogganed down again.

Now of old if I had wildly  
Made the claims I do to-day  
I should soon, to put it mildly,  
Have been firmly led away;  
Doctors, acting with decision,  
Would have taken me in charge;  
Now they call it television—  
And, you see, I'm still at large!  
—LUCIO in the *Manchester Guardian*.

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Niagara Falls is receding about two feet a year.

"Cancer at the beginning is a purely local infection as the sting of a wasp," said a surgeon recently.

Study of leprosy is difficult because the germs cannot be grown in lower animals or in ordinary media in test tubes.

The steam engine was invented in 1781, but the first steam railroad in this country did not appear until 45 years later.