

## First Glances at New Books

**THE FATHER IN PRIMITIVE PSYCHOLOGY**—Bronislaw Malinowski—Norton (\$1). The strange ideas of South Sea Islanders regarding kinship and the physiology of sex are recounted. "My firm conviction," concludes this Polish anthropologist, "is that the ignorance of paternity is an original feature of primitive psychology, and that in all speculations about the origin of marriage and the evolution of sexual customs, we must bear in mind this fundamental ignorance."

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

**HOW I CAME TO BE**—Armenouhie T. Lamson—Macmillan (\$1.75). The autobiography of an unborn infant, scientifically accurate but written in popular language in response, according to the author, to the need of the present youth for true knowledge concerning motherhood and the prenatal life of a child. Probably will do some good; not more than average sentimental.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

**THE ROMANCE OF CHEMISTRY**—William Foster—Century (\$3). Encyclopedic in its content and breadth, this volume by a Princeton chemistry professor is entertaining enough to read, rather than simply to consult.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

**EMINENT CHEMISTS OF OUR TIME**—Benjamin Harrow—Van Nostrand (\$3). The second edition of this interesting work, now augmented in usefulness by detailed accounts of the work of the chemists described, and copious references to original papers.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

**CHEMICAL LABORATORY MANUAL**—L. Jean Bogert—Saunders. A book intended to accompany the author's "Fundamentals of Chemistry."

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

**PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY**—Joseph H. Roe—Mosby (\$2.50). An up-to-date text-book of chemistry, with a laboratory guide bound in at the back.

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**FIRST PRINCIPLES OF CHEMISTRY**—F. W. Dootson and A. J. Berry—Cambridge Univ. A well written course in elementary chemistry, intended principally for the first-year students in English universities.

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## RADIO

### Radio Talks With Movies

A hook-up between radio and the movies for scientific purposes has been perfected in Germany, which will permit eminent scientific authorities to lecture to many audiences at the same time, and to illustrate their addresses with motion pictures, no matter how widely separated the various auditoriums may be. The arrangement is relatively simple in principle. In each auditorium the films which are to illustrate the lecture are run on an ordinary projector, geared to a motor which is synchronized with all the other motors in the series, so that each point in all the films is thrown on the screens at exactly the same instant. The lecturer watches one of the projections, or a private projection in his own study, and times his remarks to fit the scenes or processes being illustrated. His lecture, of course, is broadcast by ordinary radio, and is made audible in the various halls by loud speakers.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

## INVENTION

### Quota Law Speeds Invention

The immigration quota law, which has now been in effect for two years, has cut down the steady stream of "cheap labor" into this country, and as a result industries have made extraordinary progress in finding new tools and machines to take the place of an unlimited supply of laborers.

"From one end of the country to the other, reports of new labor-saving machinery are coming in almost daily," according to Prof. Robert D. Ward, of Harvard University, who explains how the new law is working, in the *Journal of Heredity*.

"We hear of new coke-handling apparatus," he states, "of mechanical brickmakers, of track-layers, and of numberless other machines which are replacing crude hand labor and are at the same time saving money. The question, 'Who will dig our ditches?' is answered by mechanical ditch-diggers, the largest of which can do the work of 400 men."

Rapid increase in machines to do rough work is decreasing unemployment, Professor Ward finds. The peaks and hollows of seasonal employment are being smoothed out. The new industrial situation means higher prices for labor, but eventually, it is prophesied, it will mean a lower cost of production.

Even the shortage of domestic servants is by no means a "national calamity," says this economist.

The home standards of comfort and living are not being lowered; they are being simplified and improved, he explains. Progress in systems of food preparation and food distribution, modern equipment for cooking and house cleaning, do more for the present day housewife than cheap labor did for her grandmother.

Answering the argument that the new law is preventing relatives of immigrants from joining their families in this country. Professor Ward points out that practically 80 per cent. of all immigration under the new law consists of "relatives." Since 1921 all aliens in overseas countries have known about the numerical restrictions on immigration to the United States. It is the immigrant himself who, if he comes here alone, does the separating, Professor Ward states.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

## ENTOMOLOGY

### Bees Killed By Sprays

Honeybees are killed by minute quantities of arsenic as used in sprays for fruit trees and arsenical sprays should not be used while trees and plants are in full bloom, according to Dr. N. E. McIndoo and G. S. Demuth of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Such sprays should be used only after ninety per cent. of the blossoms have fallen from the trees, when the poisons are still efficacious and the majority of bees have abandoned the blossoms.

Aside from the value of the honey crop they produce, bees are of considerable value in transferring pollen and thus effecting fertilization, and should be protected by horticulturists. The conclusions are the result of several years' study recently completed by Department scientists because of general agitation on the subject.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

## GENERAL SCIENCE

### Sigma Xi Fellowships

Fellowships available for workers in all fields of science will be awarded early in June by Sigma Xi, the society for the promotion of research. These will be for the year 1927-28, and there are no restrictions as to the university or the country in which the holder is permitted to work. Applications may be made before May 30 to Dean Edward Ellery, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

Science News-Letter, May 14, 1927

A small crank machine to shell peas has been invented.