

First Glances at New Books

KERNELS OF THE UNIVERSE—C. B. Bazzoni—*Doran* (\$1.25). “‘What is the use of a book,’ thought Alice, ‘without pictures or conversations?’” Plenty of scientific books have pictures, but since the days of Galileo conversation has been lost from books on science. In this little volume the author invokes the good old dialog method, with a clergyman, a business man and a physicist as the *dramatis personae*. The physicist tells the others of atoms and the electrons of which they are made, of the radiations they emit, of the quantum theory and of modern ideas of where and how the atoms originate and what finally becomes of them. And best of all, it is all given in the easy conversational style which makes it interesting reading. The book is the third of “The Humanizing of Knowledge Series,” intended, we learn from the introduction, “to present to the average man, for his delight as well as his information, great but little understood truths, the fruit of scholarly research.” In this book, at least, their aim has been ably fulfilled.

Science News-Letter, July 2, 1927

THE CASE OF PATIENCE WORTH, A Critical Study of Certain Unusual Phenomena—Walter Franklin Prince—*Boston Society for Psychic Research*. Whatever may be the reader's own solution of the Patience Worth puzzle, he will find much of interest in this new volume of material and comment. The facts set forth are still awaiting an exact scientific explanation of the psychological mechanism by which Mrs. Pearl Curran, a woman with no recognized mental gifts, suddenly dictates such poems and novels in archaic dialects. The author of this critical study ends his book by saying: “Either our concept of what we call the subconscious must be radically altered, so as to include potencies of which we hitherto have had no knowledge, or else some cause operating through but not originating in the subconsciousness of Mrs. Curran must be acknowledged.”

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THE ZEISS WORKS—Felix Auerbach—*Foyle (London)* (\$4.50). The fascinating story of the partnership between Carl Zeiss and Ernst Abbe that led to an institution that is now more than a business firm and which has been responsible for many of the great advances in optical science.

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Air Lines to Span Nation

By August 1 anyone will be able to fly from New York to San Francisco with the speed of air mail. By July 1 the western half of this route from Chicago to San Francisco will be open. Later airliners will ply between New York and Miami, via Atlanta.

America will then begin to rival Europe's passenger airlines just as it now excels in air mail routes. The New York-San Francisco route will be the world's longest airplane passenger line.

Information obtained from Major Ernest L. Jones of the Department of Commerce's new organization controlling commercial aviation indicates that these important advances in aviation will occur.

The cost of transcontinental flying will be about fifteen cents a mile or less than \$400.00 for the 2,500 mile trip. Rail fare and Pullman for the same trip cost about \$140. The fastest rail time from coast to coast is slightly less than four days (87 to 96 hours) while the air time will be about a day and a third (31 to 32 hours). Thus nearly three days of time will be saved by traveling by air.

Those who prefer wings to wheels can travel now from Boston to New York for \$30.00. The air time tables are out with directions for passengers. The table looks like a railroad one with arriving and leaving times for the cities en route.

Other passenger air routes now running are:

The Colorado Airways, Inc., operating from Cheyenne to Pueblo, \$45 round trip.

The Western Air Express, 589 miles from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles, \$150 round trip.

The Pacific Air Transport from Seattle to Los Angeles, 1,073 miles for \$132 one way.

The Stout Air Services, between Detroit and Grand Rapids, is the only company issuing commutation books of ten trips. These books are to be had for \$160.

The Northwest Airways will also begin service from Chicago to Minneapolis-St. Paul in the immediate future, with a round trip ticket rate of \$75.

The following airways are now completely lighted: New York to Boston, St. Louis to Chicago and

the transcontinental route from New York to Salt Lake. The following routes will be lighted this year: Dallas to Chicago and Cheyenne to Pueblo (nearly finished); Salt Lake to Los Angeles; Salt Lake to San Francisco; Pasco, Washington, to Elko, Nevada; Seattle to Los Angeles; Minneapolis, St. Paul to Chicago; Detroit to Cleveland and New York to Atlanta. The New York-Chicago route is now the only regular night mail service.

The large expansion of aerial passenger lines will occur when the Post Office department relinquishes actual operation of the air mail lines and lets them out on contract. The government will be entirely out of the business of operating the air mail routes on August 1. Private air mail contractors will be able to carry passengers and express along with mail just as the railroads do.

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PSYCHIATRY

Emotions Foretell Diseases

Children whose early years are shadowed by pronounced and frequent attacks of rage or fear may be getting a start directly toward certain types of mental diseases, according to Dr. Henry S. Sullivan, of the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, here.

“Some young children are subjected to such experiences that they react to rage more than to any other emotion,” Dr. Sullivan has found. “These tend to grow up to become violent, aggressive and epileptic types.

“Other children have all their needs anticipated, and their chief emotion is self-satisfaction. These are not fitted to meet life, and often develop obsessional neuroses quite early.

“And lastly, a great number of infants are taught more of fear than anything else, and in these we see a sort of maladjustment known as defense reactions, by which they set up barriers between themselves and the world. Dementia precox patients belong to this class.”

Grave mental disorders of the dementia precox type are maladjustments to a social environment, and are not in any sense the outcome of hereditary factors, Dr. Sullivan states.

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