

First Glances at New Books

STUDIES IN OPTICS—A. A. Michelson—*Univ. of Chicago* (\$2). Few scientists have made as complete and thorough studies of light, and associated phenomena, as Prof. Michelson. Nor have few scientists' labors had as far-reaching results. The whole theory of relativity, and the concepts connected with it, trace their ancestry back to Michelson's famous experiment in collaboration with Prof. Morley. And then, in more recent years, the measurement of stellar diameters for the first time, with the aid of his interferometer, opened up a new astronomical method. In this little book he discusses and explains these and other researches. "Studies in Optics" is the latest in the University of Chicago's famous "Science Series," which includes such important books as T. C. Chamberlin's "Origin of the Earth," R. A. Millikan's "The Electron," and L. E. Dickson's "Algebras and Their Arithmetics."

Science News-Letter, July 23, 1927

A GUIDE TO THINKING—Olin Templin and Anna McCracken—*Doubleday, Page*. There is no course in the curriculum that is more in need of revivifying than the oldest and most fundamental of all, logic. Since it deals with the laws of thinking, the right use of which is essential to success in all the other studies of the school and to the conduct of subsequent life, it should be the dominant influence in every class. Unfortunately the study of formal logic has come to be regarded as the deadest and most impractical course in college.

But it is not so regarded in the University of Kansas where Professor Templin has devoted his best energies for a lifetime to making logic a vital and practical pursuit. "I had the privilege of being a student in his first class in that course, away back in 1890," says E. E. Slosson, "and I remember how we were shocked and disconcerted when he took a daily paper as a text book. So long as we kept to 'all men are moral' and 'Socrates was a man' when we were called upon to apply the rules of the validity of the syllogism to the spellbinder of the current campaign it was as hard on us as it was on the speaker's argument."

Methods that he has worked out in classroom since he has embodied in this "Guide To Thinking" in so clear and succinct a form that they can be used by any teacher.

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GENERAL CHEMISTRY—James Kendall — *Century* (\$3.50). Professor Kendall has followed in the main the plan and method which the late Alexander Smith introduced at the University of Chicago and afterwards at Columbia, but he has not only added a large amount of new material acquired in recent years and has given this volume of the famous series a new trend in adapting it specifically to students who want to realize to the full the cultural value of the science. This he has accomplished not by weakening the substance of the book or lessening its demands upon the pupils and the teacher, but by making more prominent the human interest and the wider aspects of the study of chemistry. The chapter headed "Valedictory" is a unique feature in that it introduces the names and achievements of the foremost living chemists in this country and abroad. Kendall's "General Chemistry" is not only a practical textbook but a useful volume for the reference shelves of any public library or reading room.

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BUSINESS WITHOUT A BUYER—William Trufant Foster and Waddill Catchings—*Houghton Mifflin* (\$2). When wheels of industry go round and goods are rushed to shop shelves, but buyers are lacking, there is financial depression. Upon this basic proposition, and the opposite picture of prosperity when buyers buy freely, these two economists build an explanation of such matters as our foreign trade and war debts, the effect the automobile is having on American prosperity, and the much discussed subject of instalment selling. An unusual book, addressed to those who like their finance and economics served in readable, vivid style.

Science News-Letter, July 23, 1927

EUROPA 1927—An annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions—*Routledge*. (London) 15 shillings.

A European Who's Who in politics, trade, science, art and literature, exclusively a work of reference of European life and civilization.

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ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY—Hugh S. Taylor—*Van Nostrand* (\$3.75). A college text on physical chemistry, based on the author's larger "Treatise on Physical Chemistry."

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USING RADIO IN SALES PROMOTION—Edgar H. Felix — *McGraw-Hill* (\$5). What musical instruments are best reproduced over the radio? How can the number of listeners to a radio station be estimated? What is the best time to broadcast various types of radio programs? These are typical of the questions that are answered in this book. Though it is intended mainly for those connected with the broadcasting end of radio, the material that it contains is of interest to the listener at the other end of the carrier wave as well.

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THE LAW OF RADIO COMMUNICATION—Stephen Davis—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). The development of radio communication, and especially, in the last few years, of broadcasting, has had an important legal effect. Radio involved such new and previously unknown ideas that entirely new laws had to be made to regulate it. For instance, what power has the state to prosecute radio interference? Or is defamation of character by radio slander or libel? In this book Judge Davis discusses the history of radio legislation as well as the laws now in force. As the book is recent enough to include the law creating the present Federal Radio Commission, it fills a unique place.

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BURIALS OF THE ALGONQUIAN, SIOUAN AND CADDOAN TRIBES WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI—Bulletin 83 of the U. S. Bureau of American Ethnology—*Government Printing Office* (\$0.50). That burial of the dead was an important rite among the red men, and that their grief had many forms of expression, is shown in this well-organized little volume. Differences between customs of the tribes are made clear by many excellent illustrations.

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MURDER—Andreas Bjerre, translated from the Swedish by E. Classen—*Longmans, Green* (\$3.50). The determining factor in all crime is weakness, declares this noted Swedish criminologist. Following an introductory chapter in which this theory is elaborated, he devotes the book to three case histories, each showing how a psychically weak individual drifted into a life of crime and eventually committed murder.

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