

First Glances at New Books

THE EARTH AND ITS RHYTHMS—Charles Schuchert and Clara M. LeVene—*Appleton* (\$4). Professedly a popular exposition, this book bears no mark of the odious process of "writing down," and the treatment has both order and clarity to commend it for use as an elementary textbook as well as for its avowed end of "straight reading" by an adult audience.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

HYDROGEN ION CONCENTRATION—Leonor Michaelis—*Williams and Wilkins*. A full technical discussion of the principles on which is based this very important key to the understanding and control of many fundamental chemical and biological processes. Dr. Perlzweig, the translator, has done justice to the original in both spirit and letter. The book is, of course, as necessary to the physiologist and biochemist as a thesaurus is to an editor.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOX ETHNOLOGY—Bur. of Am. Ethnology Bulletin 85—Truman Michelson—*Government Printing Office* (75c). A valuable record in the Indian text of the language and folk lore of the Fox Indians with the English version on the opposite page.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

THE NEW REFORMATION—Michael Pupin — *Scribner's* (\$2.50). How science has changed our conception of the universe. The revelations of science in the last four hundred years set forth for the lay mind in untechnical language.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

LUBRICATING GREASES — E. N. Klemgard—*Chemical Catalog* (\$5.50). All about grease. Of interest to all those whose work concerns lubricators.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

ALUMINUM BRONZE POWDER AND ALUMINUM PAINT—Junius David Edwards—*Chemical Catalog*. A complete technical account covering all aspects of aluminum paint.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

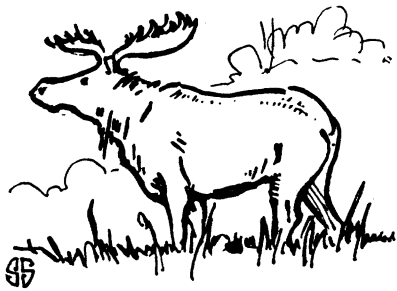
JOSEPH, BARON LISTER—A. Logan Turner—*Oliver and Boyd*. A handsome centenary volume devoted to the life and famous reminiscences of the man who made aseptic surgery possible.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

BIOLOGY

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Moose

"Gin that's a moose, will ye no show me ane o' your rats?" gasped the amazed Scot in the old familiar anecdote.

The first sight of one of these portentously huge beasts of the North is always enough to make any unaccustomed man gasp and doubt the evidence of his senses. Somehow, Old Shovel-Horns simply doesn't seem to belong to this geological period; there is something grotesque and alien about his massive head, his terrific, wide-stretching horns, his high-humped shoulders. And though he is huge he can, when he thinks there is need for caution, appear and vanish as noiselessly as the Indians who used to stalk him; which makes him seem even more like a sort of massive specter.

And when you get right down to the facts, the moose really doesn't belong to this geological period. He belongs to the Pliocene, or at the latest the Pleistocene, the epoch of glaciers, when roamed the skin-clad hunters of the stone age, who very likely regarded him as a demi-god, but ate his flesh with relish none the less.

The European moose, known over there as the elk, now survives only in Norway, and is not very numerous even in that country. It has been pushed nearly to extinction within historic times. Another related animal with horns similarly palmated, was the giant Irish elk, now totally extinct. This was not a true moose, or elk, in the European sense, but belonged to a distinct group by itself. It was the largest member of the deer family that ever existed, standing about six feet high at the shoulders, with antlers that in the largest specimens attained a spread of eleven feet. It was the favorite quarry of the semi-mythical kings of Ireland during the late Bronze Age, and its bones are still found in the Irish peat bogs.

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SOCIOLOGY

Those Startling Figures

Quotation from chapter "Crime and the Alarmists" by Clarence Darrow in *MIRRORS OF THE YEAR*—Edited by Grant Overton—Stokes.

It is only during a few years that any effort has been made in the United States to gather statistics on the subject of crime. From the nature of our political organization, this movement began with isolated states and cities, and even up to the present time statistics can be obtained from relatively only few and small areas. In the main, these figures have been collected by police departments, coroners' offices, clerks of court, grand juries, prison superintendents, and sometimes by outside agencies. In short, as the system was built up the methods of gathering statistics have developed in a hit-or-miss fashion. Naturally, as in all similar cases, the additional work thrown upon the various officials was done carelessly and imperfectly. As time has gone on, however, the collection of data has been improved. The growing care in gathering statistics in itself might easily lead to the conclusion that crime in the United States is on the increase. But still, in very few places has there been any attempt to place the collection of data in the hands of intelligent people trained for the task.

Imperfect as all our statistics are confessed to be, it is doubtless true that the dangerous age for boys in reference to crime is constantly growing younger. It is safe to say that almost all crimes are committed by boys in their early teens or by those who began in effect a criminal career at that age. Saving criminals is, in the last analysis, only saving children; and saving children means not only saving criminals but their victims, too. . . . It is only rarely that a boy carefully trained and fitted for life is sent to jail.

Science News-Letter, October 29, 1927

MEDICINE

New Diabetes Treatment

Another diabetes treatment has been announced. Dr. Karl von Noorden, professor of medicine at the University of Frankfurt, reports a new substance for the treatment of diabetes which he calls "glukhorment" made from the pancreas by a process of fermentation. It has the practical advantage over insulin of being given by mouth rather than by injection and clinical tests of the new preparation are being awaited with interest in medical circles.

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