

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOOLOGY (Quarterly)—Edited by Charles Manning Child—*University of Chicago Press*. (\$6 a year). As a publication outlet for much excellent work that is now being done in experimental zoology this new journal will find a hearty welcome among biologists generally. The contributions to this issue. Vol. 1, No. 1, are all of laudably high quality, and there is every reason to anticipate that the standard thus set will be maintained. Format and printing are quite up to the mark which the scientific public has come to expect from the University of Chicago Press.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

TARCA THE OTTER—Henry Williamson—*Dutton* (\$2.50). The dramatic life story of an English otter, vividly written by one who can read animal "sign."

Natural History

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

A REVIEW OF THE FOSSIL BIRD, PARAPAVO CALIFORNICUS (MILLER), FROM THE PLEISTOCENE ASPHALT BEDS OF RANCHO LA BREA—Hildegard Howard—*University of California Press*. A careful study of the remains of a peacock-like bird that once lived in California.

Palaeontology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

GROWING UP—Karl de Schweinitz—*Macmillan* (\$1.75). Sex instruction in exceedingly elementary language, evidently intended for very young children.

Biology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

OPIUM—John Palmer Gavit—*Brentano's* (\$3.50). A massive attack upon a world evil that is greater than the evil of alcoholism.

Hygiene

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

THE AMERICAN NEGRO—Melville J. Herskovits—*Knopf*. A useful sociological and anthropological study of the American Negro in compact and readable form.

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

THE RACIAL ELEMENTS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY—Hans F. K. Gunther—*Dutton* (\$4.60). Nordics again!

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

RELIGION IN SZECHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA—David Crockett Graham—*Smithsonian Institution*. A close study of the exceedingly complicated beliefs and practices in one of the less travelled Chinese provinces.

Religion

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

THE SHIP UNDER STEAM—G. Gibbard Jackson—*Scribner* (\$3.50). The history of the development of steamships of all types. The discussion is limited mostly to British shipping, but even so is of great interest on this side of the Atlantic.

Engineering

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

APPLIED THERMODYNAMICS—William Robinson—*Pitman* (\$5.50). All the important applications of thermodynamics, such as mechanical refrigerators, steam engines, etc., are covered in this complete British textbook.

Engineering—Physics

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

AN INTRODUCTORY TEXTBOOK OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING—John Robert Benton—*Ginn* (\$3.60). Starting with elementary electrical theory, the author takes the student through the principles of the operation of generators, transmission lines, motors, power plants and storage batteries, ending with an important chapter on "Safety." A little knowledge of the calculus is assumed.

Electricity

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

A SHORTER PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY—Emmanuel de Martonne—*Knopf*. An English translation of a French text that introduces some novel features.

Geography

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

THE GLAMOUR OF NEAR EAST EXCAVATION—James Baikie—*Lippincott*. The treasure trove uncovered by modern archæological research spread out for the inspection of the general reader. Too many personal impressions are compensated by the beauty and interest of the plates.

Archæology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

CHINA—Paul Monroe—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). An examination of the present tangled state of a potential world power, preceded by a swift survey of the social and historical causes that led thereto.

History

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

RELIGION WITHOUT REVELATION—Julian S. Huxley—*Harper* (\$2.50). An effort on the part of an active thinker to whom the present accepted forms of faith do not appeal, to build up a foundation for a rationalistic, science-founded religion.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

Man-Made Earthquakes

Engineering

Man-made earthquakes, recorded some distance away upon a simple form of seismograph weighing only a few pounds, are helping Russian engineers to survey the site of the proposed Turkestan-Siberia railroad.

The method is to detonate charges of explosives and to record the travel of vibrations through the ground in different directions. By a minute study of the records so obtained it is possible to secure data on the geological formation of the locality.

The new seismograph invented by Prof. Paul M. Nikiforov, Director of the Physico-Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Science at Leningrad, is similar to one recently invented in the United States by Dr. John A. Anderson, of the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California. Its main part, the pendulum, is a small vertical cylinder of pure gold suspended a little off center on a pair of fine wires. Whenever there is any vibration the cylinder turns slightly in proportion to the shock. A tiny mirror attached to the pendulum reflects a beam of light on a constantly advancing sheet of photographic paper. Every turn of the cylinder, no matter how small, shifts the light spot considerably and it traces a wavy black line. Several of the new instruments are now installed on earthquake stations in Turkestan and Crimea and give complete satisfaction.

Science News-Letter, March 10, 1928

New Italian Telescope

Astronomy

The largest telescope in Italy, with a mirror 40 inches in diameter, is now in use at the Merate Observatory, in the foothills of the Alps about 20 miles northeast of Milan. Ordered in 1923, when the dust and smoke of Milan made it necessary for the observatory there to move to a better location, the new instrument embodies all the latest improvements. It is a reflecting telescope, in which the 40-inch concave mirror takes the place of the convex lens in the more familiar type of telescope. The moving parts of the telescope weigh over 18 tons, yet so perfectly are they balanced that a one-half horsepower motor is adequate for turning the instrument to follow the stars across the sky. The instrument was built by the Carl Zeiss Optical Works, in Jena, Germany.

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