

First Glances at New Books

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE—Edited by Mrs. Margaret Sanger—*Edward Arnold & Co.* A summary of the papers and discussions at the recent conference to determine how this geographically limited earth can best grapple with the problem of supporting its population.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

WHY MEN FAIL—Edited by Morris Fishbein and William A. White—*Century* (\$2). Psychiatrists, physicians, psychologists, nerve specialists and sociologists have analyzed human failure from their respective angles.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

MORTALITY STATISTICS, 1925, Part I—*Government Printing Office* (\$2). Causes of death are recorded from many angles in the 455 pages of statistical tables that make up this volume of the census report.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

PRESIDENTIAL YEARS, 1787-1860—Meade Minnigerode—*Putnam*. A sprightly account of presidential elections up to the time of the Civil War, embellished with several interesting prints and illustrated covers of long-forgotten campaign songs.

Politics
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MUSEUM VISITOR—Edward Stevens Robinson—*American Association of Museums*. An experimental study by a Yale professor of psychology on the cause of "museum fatigue" and how to relieve it.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

PSYCHIC RESEARCH—American Society for Psychical Research—*Hyslop House*, New York (\$5.00). The first issues of the *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research* in its new and attractive form of a monthly magazine contain reports of a pony who apparently knows Greek and geometry, the thumb prints of Margery's spirit brother and many other marvels.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

AN ABORIGINAL SALT MINE AT CAMP VERDE, ARIZONA—Earl H. Morris—*American Museum of Natural History*. A description of one of the most extensive of Indian salt workings, and of artifacts found in it.

Archaeology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE QUIPUS IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY—L. Leland Locke—*American Museum of Natural History*. Technical descriptions of the strange string-mnemonics of Peru.

Archaeology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

FUR FARMING FOR PROFIT—Frank G. Ashbrook—*Macmillan* (\$4). A much needed account of one of our most interesting and newest industries. Though intended as a practical volume for those who wish to go into fur-farming as a business venture, everybody interested in animals or furs will find it worth while.

Zoology
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

ELECTRICITY ON THE FARM AND IN RURAL COMMUNITIES—*Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture*, (1120 Garland Bldg., Chicago.) (\$5.00). A 1361-page bulletin, 210 illustrations, 83 tables, giving data and other information on 100 rural uses for electricity. A digest of all information on the subject of rural electrifications at the command of the Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture.

Electricity
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

THE CHEMICAL EFFECTS OF ALPHA PARTICLES AND ELECTRONS—Samuel C. Lind—*Chemical Catalog* (\$5). The second (revised and enlarged) edition of a standard work on what radium rays do when they hit certain substances.

Physical Chemistry
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

METHODS, FORMULAS AND TABLES FOR THE CALCULATION OF ANTENNA CAPACITY—Frederick W. Grover—*U. S. Govt. Prtg. Office* (\$2.00). A scientific paper of the Bureau of Standards, in which methods of calculation of antenna capacity are discussed and tables given for determining without calculation the capacity of antennas of the most common types; viz., single wire vertical and horizontal and two wire horizontal.

Physics
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

THE JOURNAL OF BUSINESS—*Chicago Press* (\$4 per year). The first number of the first volume of a new quarterly publication devoted "to the scientific and professional interests of business."

Economics
Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Wombat

In Australia's remarkable zoo, which out of two very lowly original zoological ancestral stocks has furnished forth animals resembling wolves, weasels, anteaters and a number of others, besides the utterly original and fantastic kangaroos, the Wombat is one of the oddest and yet most familiar-appearing.

The wombat is what might be called a marsupial bear. He has a long, thick, burly body mounted on short, stubby legs, a blocky head with beady little eyes, and round, blunt ears. He reaches a maximum length of about three feet.

The wombat is a most complete vegetarian. He feeds on grass stems and softer herbage, and has an especial weakness for fleshy roots. Occasionally he raids gardens, though as a rule he is a gentleman and lets other folks' property alone.

The wombat is a good family man. He digs a long, sloping tunnel that terminates in the domestic den. Here Mrs. Wombat devotes herself to her offspring, of which she produces but one at a birth. Like all her marsupial kindred, she has a maternal pouch in which to carry the youngster while it is still in the imperfect and helpless stage of development—for all marsupial infants are, so to speak, born prematurely.

As a domestic pet the wombat shines. Its very name has something fantastic and sportive about it, although it is only the sober and unimaginative appellation given the animal by the black natives of Australia. Being rather stupid, as most marsupials are, it is very good-natured, and will stand a lot of pulling and hauling. Being sturdily built it can survive the rough treatment children give their pets. Being a vegetarian it is not hard to feed. Happy is the Australian or Tasmanian family that can boast its house-wombat.

Science News-Letter, April 28, 1928