

First Glances at New Books

HANDBUCH DER ASTROPHYSIK: BAND VI: DAS STERNSYSTEM—F. C. Henroteau and others—*Julius Springer* (Berlin) (66 RM.). For the last few years astronomers of the United States have been hearing about an exhaustive and monumental work on astrophysics that was under preparation in Germany, and to which several American and Canadian astronomers were contributing. Here is the first volume to appear, though it will be the last of six when the set is completed. The publishers announce that the remaining volumes will appear during 1928 and 1929. Judging from this, the set will be fully up to the greatest expectation. Here are four articles, three of which are in English. Dr. F. C. Henroteau, of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, writes on double stars; Dr. F. J. M. Stratton, of Cambridge, on novae; Prof. K. G. Malmquist, of Lund, on radical velocities of the stars, and Prof. H. Ludendorff, of Potsdam (in German) on variable stars. Despite the high price of the book, it is to be heartily recommended to anyone who wants the last word on these phases of astrophysics by leading authorities.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

THE CONSTELLATIONS AND THEIR HISTORY—Charles Whyte—*Lippincott*. The fact that a book published in 1899 has, until now, been the chief work on the history of the constellations shows the need that has existed for a similar volume that would include the latest discoveries. Mr. Whyte's book goes far to fill this vacancy, for he includes such important developments of recent years as the measurement of star diameters by the interferometer, Hubble's measurements of the distance of the spiral nebulae and Aitken's discovery of the duplicity of omicron Ceti.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

THE MIND BEHIND THE UNIVERSE—Theodore A. Miller—*Stokes* (\$1.50). A philosophical discussion designed for those who are not professional philosophers.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

MUSCULAR MOVEMENT IN MAN: THE FACTORS GOVERNING SPEED AND RECOVERY FROM FATIGUE—A. V. Hill—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2.50). A quantitative discussion of human kinetics.

Physiology
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

THE NEWER KNOWLEDGE OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY—Edited by Edwin O. Jordan and I. S. Falk—*The University of Chicago Press* (\$10). This heavy volume (there are 1196 pages) has the praiseworthy object of making available to students and active workers the latest results of investigations in bacteriology and immunology. Eighty-two authorities in their respective specialties have contributed the chapters which make the book an invaluable reference for all whose work touches on this rapidly advancing field.

Bacteriology
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

PIVOTAL FIGURES OF SCIENCE—Arthur E. Bostwick—*American Library Association, Chicago* (35 cents). The outline for "Reading with a Purpose" series aims to awaken an interest in science through the study of biographies of the leaders in scientific research. The books recommended are:

MAKERS OF SCIENCE, by Ivor B. Hart; **HEROES OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD**, by Charles R. Gibson; **LEADING AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE**, by David Starr Jordan, ed.; **CHARLES DARWIN**, by Gamaliel Bradford; **THE LIFE OF PASTEUR**, by René Vallery-Radot; **PIERRE CURIE**, by Marie Sklodowska Curie; **FROM IMMIGRANT TO INVENTOR**, by Michael Pupin.

General Science
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

LET FREEDOM RING—Arthur Garfield Hays—*Boni and Liveright* (\$2.50). One of the chief moving spirits of the Civil Liberties Union recites a few chapters of the mad things Americans have done to each other when fear has made them blind. The first 90 pages of the book is devoted to an account of the Dayton evolution case.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

HYMEN OR THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE—Norman Haire—*Dutton* (\$1). The author admits that his view of the future of marriage will be found "startling" by many readers. It will also be found shocking.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

CITRUS PRODUCTS, PART II—James B. McNair—*Field Mus. of Nat. Hist.* The second part of an exhaustive monograph covering both the biological and economic aspects of citrus fruit industries throughout the world.

Agriculture
Science News-Letter, May 5, 1928

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Fleur-de-Lis

When you come upon the reedy margin of a pond, or a wet meadow, you are very likely to find this flower, delicate blue and yellow, sufficient all by itself to make a day in spring, though all other buds were sealed. It is the wild Iris, which is the Fleur-de-Lis, the most gallant, the bravest, the most famous of flowers, and yet withal the most lovely. Riding above the stiff sword-blades of its leaves, it is like Jeanne d'Arc above the spears of her army, something at once bold and delicate, strong and yet sweet.

It is wholly appropriate that this flower should have blossomed for so long on the banners of France, that it should have been the symbol also of the city of Dante, of Florence, "the city of flowers." It is the kind of flower that lifts itself to a place in a flag. Do not even old farmer's wives, who know nothing of glory and whose romance went out long ago, still call them "flag-flowers"?

But the pride of the wild iris is of even more ancient lineage than this. There is an iris that blooms in the stony fields of Palestine, a much brighter one than ours, a veritable Oriental dream of gorgeousness. The ancients were not exact in their botany; iris and lily were one to them, and so it is that when Jesus of Nazareth sought a symbol of careless glory surpassing even that of a careful king, his eye and word lighted upon an iris that was a fleur-de-lis, or, being Englished, a "lily flower."

The economic loss from automobile accidents figured in terms of persons killed and injured totals almost three billion dollars in the past five years.

A slab in the Berlin Museum dating about 2600 B. C., from a temple in Egypt, shows the various processes in smoking honey, putting it in jars, pressing and sealing it.