

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

FOREST FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY, AND ROMANCE—Alexander Porteous—*Macmillan* (\$4.50). A book with a dual role. The author has an exhaustive knowledge of the role played by groves and forests in history and mythology, and his book makes a useful reference work for those interested in trees and men. At the same time, enthusiasm for his subject has enabled the author to present the old myths and references in entertaining style for general reading

Ethnology—Forestry

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

THE LAWS OF LIVING THINGS—E. J. Menge and R. A. Muttkowski—*Bruce Publishing Co.* (\$1.72). This general biology text for high-school students shows evidence of great care by its authors for manner as well as matter. Not even the dullest student would be able to escape the terseness and emphasis of its text, and it would require a most determined blunderer to go wrong with the diagrammatic, boldly labeled illustrations. Since both authors are professors in Jesuit universities, the brief, closely reasoned sections on evolution will be of especial interest. Conservatively fair though these statements are, they will still, in all probability, not pass muster in many Southern and other rural communities.

Biology

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

FOIBLES OF INSECTS AND MEN—By William Morton Wheeler—*Knopf*. Probably Dr. Wheeler was so pestered by friends and admirers for reprints of *Teermitodoxa*, or *Biology and Society*, and the *Physiognomy of Insects* that he had to publish his papers in book form in self defense. Readers will follow the daily life of ants, wasps and tree crickets with bated breath and avid interest, whether they know any entomology or not. Why can't all scientific treatises be filled with the breath of life?

Entomology

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

SANTANDER—E. Allison Peers—*Knopf* (\$2.50). The reader is introduced to a little known but charming province of northern Spain by a British professor who has spent many summers there and is an enthusiastic guide. The famous Cave of Altamira, containing remarkable wall paintings of the Old Stone Age, is one of the places visited in this quaint region.

Geography

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

CONTEMPORARIES OF MARCO POLO—Edited by Manuel Komroff—*Boni and Liveright* (\$3.50). These four medieval Europeans who journeyed eastward to Mongol courts and Indian cities have not had the popular renown of Marco Polo, but they have tales to tell as extraordinary as his. The famous khans, whose names still conjure up visions of the bizarre and mysterious, figure vividly in the accounts, and the descriptions of Mongol life and customs translate the reader into a strange world. A welcome addition to the medieval travelers' journals is an introduction which unrolls enough of the historic panorama to render the old accounts clear.

Geography

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

GEOLOGY OF MONGOLIA—Charles P. Berkey and Frederick K. Morris—*American Museum of Natural History* (\$10). This is the second volume of a series on "Natural History of Central Asia," based on the Asiatic expeditions of the American Museum. Cataloging the deserts, mountains, and river beds of the East into a geological system has always presented great difficulties, and a comprehensive volume of this sort is an important contribution. The journey of the Third Asiatic Expedition, made in 1922-23, is described from the geologists' point of view, followed by summary chapters which explain more generally the geologic evolution of Mongolia. In view of the search for ancient man in Asia, the geologists' testimony as to the character of the region will be of interest to students of anthropology. The third volume of the series will also deal with geology, reporting later studies of these members of the Asiatic Expeditions.

Geology

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

LIBERIA—OLD AND NEW—James L. Sibley and D. Westermann—*Doubleday, Doran*. Devotes attention to American agencies in Liberia with special reference to missionary and educational work.

Geography

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

STORY OF HAIR—Charles Nessler—*Boni and Liveright* (\$2.50). All about hair, past, present and future by the inventor of the permanent wave.

Anatomy-Folklore

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

PRACTICAL TELEVISION—E. T. Lerner—*Van Nostrand* (\$3.75). A British publication, written by a member of the Engineering Department of the British Post Office, and with a very considerable British bias. Most of the space is devoted to the system of J. L. Baird, which has attracted much attention in England, but which, in quality of results, is far behind the results obtained in this country by Ives, Alexanderson and Jenkins. The latter two American workers are mentioned, but only in connection with their earlier forms of apparatus. Dr. Ives is not mentioned, while the method of the Bell Laboratories, which probably gives the best results of any system yet developed, is dismissed in a page and a half.

Physics

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

THE WAYS OF BEHAVIOIRISM—John B. Watson—*Harper* (\$2). This author's experiments with babies and his lively championing of an all-physical psychology long ago intrigued public curiosity. And now Dr. Watson has written his latest and last volume on behaviorism for the general reading public—for "cultured people regardless of their grounding in science". The book will appeal particularly to those practical readers who like to see how psychological principles fit into everyday life and conduct. And for readers whose ideas of behaviorism are hazy, here is a pleasant way of getting acquainted with the Watsonian doctrine.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, July 21, 1928

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PSYCHOLOGY—Edited by Elmer S. Prather—*Psychology Foundation—Brussels*. A collection of essays and explanatory articles on the practical application of psychology, written for the average reader. The thirty-eight authors are mostly British, with some Americans, and a few other nationalities. The range of the volume is indicated by a chapter on the Intelligence Quotient by Sidney Balister, another on poise and power by the Russian dancer, Karsavina, one on the seven deadly sins by Rev. Thomas Cameron, and one on various phases of fear by Leo Robertson.

Psychology

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