

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

**THE TWILIGHT OF THE AMERICAN MIND**—Walter B. Pitkin—*Simon and Schuster* (\$3). Exactly how the million-odd brightest minds in America constitute an economic and sociological problem is set forth with a startling array of statistics and illustrations in this warning volume. "Only one adult Best Mind in every 350 Americans can today find suitable employment," Dr. Pitkin finally declares. "But there is one such Best Mind in every 100 Americans, by definition." And as the tendency to breed superiority into the race increases, the situation approaches a critical stage. The book ends with a question as to what the future may hold, but before reaching that pessimistic question mark, the author has set forth suggestions on two points, namely, what goal eugenics should aim at, and the ways in which mental stability of the nation's Best Minds may be preserved.

*Sociology—Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**THE NILE AND EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION**—Alexandre Moret—*Knopf* (\$7.50). Without making any strenuous efforts at popular appeal, the author of this history interprets Egypt with such an abundance of explanation and illustration that his account will attract casual readers as well as serve as a useful students' text and reference work. The French professor presents Egypt, not as a static nation, ponderous like its monuments, but as a developing, plastic nation. The remarkable shift from sacred despotism to state socialism is particularly emphasized and made understandable. The progress of religious thought, which played so vital a part in Egypt's destinies, is carefully traced.

*History*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**ELEMENTARY GEOGRAPHY**—Frank M. McMurry and A. E. Parkins—*Macmillan* (\$.84). In this revised edition the authors have aimed particularly to increase the simplicity of the text. The result is a practical and attractive school book, intended apparently for about the fifth grade. The things that a child is likely to be interested in have been kept steadily to the fore. The chapter in which life in the United States is compared with life in other countries is a valuable device.

*Geography*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**CROSSROADS IN THE MIND OF MAN**—Truman L. Kelley—*Stanford Univ. Press* (\$4). A scholarly attempt to determine independent mental traits present throughout life with a view to differentiating between them and understanding their laws of functioning. Dr. Kelley's emphasis is laid on the technique and mathematical procedures necessary in the co-ordinating study of individual traits.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**NEWMAN ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FAITH**—Sylvester P. Juergens—*Macmillan* (\$2.75). A detailed analytical study of Cardinal Newman's argumentative writings on faith. The reasoning steps followed by the famous churchman in building up his theory as to the reasonableness of faith are clearly presented.

*Theology—Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**PUBLICITY FOR SOCIAL WORK**—Mary Swain Routzahn and Evart G. Routzahn—*Russell Sage Foundation* (\$3). A real "life-saver" for those individuals who good-naturedly—or protestingly—set out to handle publicity for some worthwhile cause. Every angle of publicity is discussed and explained, from getting into print and writing in news style to public speaking and parades. Experienced publicity writers will also find this a useful reference book and a source of many ideas.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**MODEL AIRPLANES**—Elmer L. Allen—*Stokes* (\$3.50). Lindbergh's flight to Paris turned the hands of American youth toward the construction of model airplanes, and this is one of the books that answer the demands for directions and plans.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**THE AIRCRAFT HANDBOOK**—Fred H. Colvin and Henry F. Colvin—*McGraw-Hill* (\$4). A new edition of the essence of aviation from a practical standpoint.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**A TEXTBOOK OF GENERAL BOTANY**—Gilbert M. Smith and others—*Macmillan* (\$3.75). A revision of an excellent and successful text.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES**—Robert S. Ellis—*Appleton* (\$3.50). An attractive angle from which to approach psychology. The author skilfully uses this approach to present outstanding facts on practically every allied topic, from the mechanism of heredity and variation to age and sex differences in mental traits. Simple, orderly explanations of such basic material as statistical methods, glands, Mendelian principles, and types of mental defectives insure the reader's understanding of the discussions which follow.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**PSYCHOLOGY FOR THE WRITER**—H. K. Nixon—*Harper* (\$2.50). Psychology has much knowledge that might be presented to the literary aspirant in such a way as to be directly useful to him. This general survey of the ground gives the fiction writer an idea of the possibilities. It also leaves him with definite ideas of how he can deliberately put scientific principles to work in his creation of characters, in his use of language for effect, and in appeals to reader interest. The analyses of methods used by well-known authors and the demonstrations of how effect can be measured are particularly interesting.

*Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**THE PROBLEM CHILD AT HOME**—Mary Buell Sayles—*Commonwealth Fund* (\$1.50). A book dealing with relationships between children and parents, intended primarily for parents whose children display jealousies, tempers, or anti-social traits that bring them into conflict with other people. The author's aim is to "draw from the experiences of fathers and mothers and children who came to the clinics helpful suggestions for other parents faced by similar problems." Since the average family struggles with the same problems of childhood that are seen in exaggerated form in the problem child, these discussions of the relationships between parents and children should also be of interest to mothers and fathers whose children have never been officially rated as "problems."

*Psychiatry*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*

**THE SECRET JUNGLE**—R. J. McGregor—*Sheldon* (\$1). Hunting adventures in India, told for boys.

*Fiction*  
*Science News-Letter, October 27, 1928*