First Glances at New Books

Astronomy

MAN AND THE STARS—H. T. Stetson—*Whittlesey,* 221 p., $2.50. In this interesting book the director of the Perkins Observatory answers many of the questions that the layman often wishes to ask the astronomer, but which are so seldom answered in ordinary books on the subject. One is the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe. He thinks life somewhat like ours conceivable on Mars and Venus,, but not on the other planets. "In . . . systems around some distant stars," he says, "there may now be some planet far more like the Earth than is the planet Mars."

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Acoustics

ACOUSTICS—G. W. Stewart & R. B. Lindsay—*Van Nostrand,* 358 p., $5. The telephone, radio broadcasting and talking movies have all helped make acoustics of more importance today than ever before. Therefore this work, based on a course given at Yale by the authors, is especially welcome. It is a clear exposition of the essential parts of the theory with the modern application particularly emphasized.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Botany

COLLEGE BOTANY—G. B. Rigg—*Lea and Febiger,* 442 p., $4. One of the leaders in botanical science on the Pacific coast presents his contribution toward the better teaching of general botany in the colleges. The book has the advantage of drawing on the Pacific flora for its examples to a greater extent than do most texts, at the same time retaining its applicability to and usefulness in other parts of the country.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Chemistry

A FIRST YEAR PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY—Dennis Brooks Briggs—*Dent,* 77 p., 50c. Though published in England, this well arranged laboratory manual for elementary chemistry could easily be used in American institutions.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Histology

A TEXTBOOK OF HISTOLOGY—Harvey Ernest Jordan—*Appleton,* 857 p., $7. Fifth edition of a text for medical students by the professor of histology and embryology at the University of Virginia. Believing that success in teaching the subject depends on arousing the student's interest, an effort is made to show the relation of the material to practical needs and uses. In this revision the chapters on the blood and endocrine tissues have been given special attention in order to bring them up to date.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Botany

TREES—Charles A. Hall—*Macmillan,* 88 p., $1. The writer combines enthusiasm for the fine forests of Britain with adequate and accurate popular dendrological descriptions. An outstanding feature of the book is found in the superb colored plates of forest landscapes from paintings by first-class artists.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

General Science

WORKBOOK TO ACCOMPANY INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE—Otis William Caldwell and Francis Day Curtis—*Ginn,* 245 p., $.72. This is a laboratory manual intended to accompany the authors' general science text, "An Introduction to Science." It contains over a hundred experiments, obviously too many to be performed in one year, but this is intentional, so that the teacher may select the ones needed to fit individual differences. Throughout the student is encouraged to think for himself and to use systematic methods. He is told what to do, and told in a way to make it easy for him to understand the significance of what happens.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Pathology

TEXTBOOK OF PATHOLOGY—E. T. Bell—*Lea and Febiger,* 627 p., $8. The contributors to this text for medical students, besides Dr. Bell who edited it, are Drs. B. J. Clawson, Hal Downey, J. S. McCartney, J. C. McKinley, and C. J. Watson, all of the University of Minnesota. An effort is made to correlate the material with the students' clinical lessons.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Paleontology

PARADE OF THE LIVING — John Hodgdon Bradley, Jr. — *Coward-McCann,* 308 p., $3. The author brings to this popular presentation of the procession of life as seen by the evolutionary paleontologist, a swing of style and vividness of phraseology that are usually reserved for novels.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Fantasy

ULTIMO—John Vassos and Ruth Vassos—*Dutton,* $5. A score and one of fantastic futuristic drawings of a race driven into vast, underground cities of a scientific future by the final refrigeration of the earth, each faced by a page of text narrating the not-very-desirable life of that distant day and the uneasy will to escape by our descendants of the n-th generation.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Biology

COLLEGE BIOLOGY—H. R. Barrows—*Smith,* 414 p. $3.50. New biology textbooks have the handicap of entering an already very much crowded field; but the present one seems to be well equipped, in text and diagrammatic illustrations, to meet the struggle for existence. The book shows a most marked reaction from the "speak softly" wave that followed the anti-evolution outburst five years ago: nearly one-fourth of it is devoted to the subject of evolution.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Botany

STUDIES OF AMERICAN PLANTS—IV—Paul C. Standley—*Field Museum,* 103 p., 75c. A continuation of taxonomic studies by Mr. Standley. Most of the material here treated is Central American.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Physics

ENERGY AND POWER—Morris Meister—*Scribners,* 238 p., $1.08. A physics text intended for elementary and junior high schools. In an effort to make it attractive to the student, the author has written many parts in dialogue. Easy experiments are a feature of the work.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Chemical Engineering

THE METALLURGISTS AND CHEMISTS' HANDBOOK—Donald M. Liddell—*McGraw-Hill,* 847 p., $5. The third edition, revised and enlarged, of a valuable reference book of tables and data for the student and metallurgist.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931

Botany—Entomology

FIFTY COMMON PLANT GALLS OF THE CHICAGO AREA—Carl F. Gronemann—*Field Museum,* 348 p., 25c. Another of the excellent Field Museum leaflets on the natural history of the Chicago area.

Science News Letter, January 10, 1931