

• First Glances at New Books

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Astronomy

THE MYSTERIOUS UNIVERSE—Sir James Jeans—*Macmillan*, 163 p., \$2.25. The publication of a new book by Sir James automatically causes a person who is interested in the latest literature in astronomy to rush to his book store to purchase a copy. This work is fully up to the expectations aroused by the name of the author. "From the intrinsic evidence of his creation," he says, "the great Architect of the universe now begins to appear as a pure mathematician," thus recalling the aphorism attributed to Pythagoras, that "God always geometrizes."

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Sociology-City Planning

POSTWAR PROGRESS IN CHILD WELFARE—Edited by J. Prentice Murphy and James H. S. Bossard—*American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 315 p., \$2. A symposium by prominent specialists on various sociological, psychological, and health problems connected with the care and proper upbringing of children. A supplement discusses "Airport Problems of American Cities." One of the *Annals of the Academy*.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Invention

INVENTION AND SOCIETY—Walde- mar Kaempffert—*American Library Association*, 38 p., 35c. This pamphlet, No. 36 of the Reading With a Purpose series, is interesting in itself and serves as an introduction to further reading in six recommended books on invention.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Physics

THIS PHYSICAL WORLD—Janet Pol- lak—*Rockwell*, 112 p., \$1.25. An inter- esting little book for children that presents simply and clearly some of the elementary facts of physics.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Marine Zoology

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE CRUISES OF THE YACHTS "EAGLE" AND "ARA", 1921-1928, WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT, COMMANDING—Lee Boone—*Privately printed, Huntington, L. I., N. Y.*, Vol. II, 228 p., 74 pl.; Vol. III, 221 p., 83 pl., \$10 each volume. Mr. Vanderbilt is playing in this country, in some measure, the rôle carried with such great distinction in Europe by the late Prince of Monaco. The present pub-

lications of the collections of crustacea made on a considerable series of cruises will be welcomed by systematic students in their particular field.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Forestry-Administration

THE FOREST SERVICE: ITS HISTORY, ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION—D. H. Smith—*Brookings Institution*, 268 p., \$2. An addition to the very useful series, Service Monographs of the U. S. Government, issued by the In- stitute for Government Research. It gives in great detail the basic informa- tion concerning this very important bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, telling of the distribution of the personnel from Chief Forester down to messenger, relates the mani- fold duties this scientific and adminis- trative army has to perform, and col- lates the laws under which it acts. One of the most useful sections of the book will be the extensive bibliography.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Biography—Natural History

MEMOIRS OF TRAVEL, SPORT AND NATURAL HISTORY—Henry John Elwes—*Benn*, 317 p., 21 s. The late Mr. El- wes, one of the best known of British travelers and sportsmen, was also an amateur scientist in the ancient and true sense of the word. He has left us in this book a fascinating record of much of his active life.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Aviation

FLYING FROM THE GROUND UP—R. Sidney Bowen, Jr.—*Whittlesey House*, 234 p., \$2. Good reading for those about to learn to fly. It is easy reading, too, and it may give you a hankering to pilot your own ship if you are not that way already.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

History

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY—Charles S. Syndor and Claude Bennett—*Rand Mc- Nally*, 378 p., \$1. A textbook intended for sixth and seventh grade pupils of the state.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Zoology

OPINIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE: OPINIONS 115 TO 123—*Smithsonian Institution*, 36 p. Of interest to systematists.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Archaeology

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN—R. G. Collingwood—*Lincoln MacVeagh*, 293 p., \$6. Roman forts in Britain, Roman roads, villas and temples and coins possessed by the people of Roman Britain, such matters of historic interest are described, chap- ter by chapter, in this handbook. The author aims, successfully, at two targets: simplicity, so as not to dismay the be- ginner; and a coverage of the subject that will be useful to the student and specialist. It is a book of facts, from beginning to end, and when the end is reached Roman Britain has been thoroughly and specifically accounted for. The volume is one of the series, The Illustrated Library of Archaeology.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Logic

THE PRINCIPLES OF REASONING—Daniel Sommer Robinson—*Appleton*, 393 p., \$2.50. The second edition of a textbook on formal logic. Parts of the book are entirely rewritten, and new material has been added to keep it abreast of the times. An interesting section includes a discussion of the re- lation to logical concepts of the theories of Gestalt psychology.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

General Science-Education

DOCTORATES CONFERRED IN THE SCIENCES BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES—Callie Hull and Clarence J. West—*National Research Council*, 49 p., 50c. The number of Ph.D.'s produced in America has steadily increased from 350 in 1920 to 1,055 in 1930. The 1930 recipients and their thesis sub- jects are given in this bulletin.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Ethnology

THE HALF-WAY SUN—R. F. Bar- ton—*Brewer and Warren*, 315 p., \$5. The author went to the Philippines as a teacher, but he was eager to learn as well as to impart instruction and he here gives us the benefit of his intimate acquaintance with the little-known head-hunting natives of those islands.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Aviation

BEGINNER'S BOOK OF MODEL AIR- PLANES—Carl H. Claudy—*Bobbs Mer- rill*, 184 p., \$1.75. A book for the boy who has just acquired the wholesome desire to build an airplane.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

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General Science

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON YEARBOOK No. 29 (1930)—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 454 p., pa. \$1, cl. \$1.50. This annual report of the activities of the various departments of the Carnegie Institution contains an impressive record of accomplishment in many fields of science, by workers scattered all over the United States and through the whole world. Their interests range from the secret depths of the earth to the immeasurable spaces between the stars, from the obscure forces at the beginnings of life to the records of the highest social and artistic strivings of the human mind.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Museums

REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1930—*Government Printing Office*, 219 p., 35c. Curators of the National Museum tell of progress and accessions in their various departments during the past year.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Anthropology

CHILDREN WHO RUN ON ALL FOURS—Ales Hrdlička—*McGraw-Hill*, 418 p., \$5. Does your baby walk like a bear? This atavism, running on hands and feet instead of creeping on hands and knees, is more common than one might imagine. Dr. Hrdlička has collected records of some hundreds of cases, many of which were sent in as the result of a Science Service article published in the SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER and elsewhere, and in this book correlates and compares data on this phenomenon for the first time. He also adds records of many other interesting "throw-back" behaviors.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Engineering

WATER HEATING—*American Gas Association*, 130 p., \$3. Economic and engineering aspects of the use of gas in water heating for large and small users.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Standards

A. S. T. M. STANDARDS—*American Society for Testing Materials*, 2 Vol., 1,000 p. and 1,214 p., \$14. Every third year the A. S. T. M. issues its standards in two volumes, one devoted to metals and the other to non-metals. They have become the basis for the

purchase and use of engineering and industrial materials throughout the nation. For engineers, architects, chemists, and others who buy and use metallic and non-metallic materials, they are of fundamental reference value.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Tropical Medicine and Biology

THE AFRICAN REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND THE BELGIAN CONGO—Edited by Richard P. Strong—*Harvard University Press*, 1,064 p., \$15. Here is a wealth of information about the country that is now the subject of diplomatic negotiations and of much popular comment. The second and third parts of this two-volume report are technical, dealing with medical, pathological and biological investigations in both Liberia and the Belgian Congo, and will consequently be of interest chiefly to students of these sciences. Part one, however, is concerned with conditions in Liberia itself and is sufficiently general and non-technical to interest the lay reader. The report is based on observations made and material collected by the Harvard African Exposition of 1926-1927. The interest of the text is considerably enhanced by the many excellent illustrations.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Biography

PAUL DU CHAILLU, GORILLA HUNTER—Michel Vaucaire, transl. by Emily Pepper Watts—*Harpers*, 322 p., \$4. A biography of the astonishing little French-American who first convinced the world of the existence of the biggest of the apes, well written by a Frenchman and well translated by an American woman.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

General Science—Philosophy

MAN AND HIS UNIVERSE—John Langdon-Davies—*Harper & Brothers*, 341 p., \$5. A readable account of the change in popular beliefs originating in science, from the middle ages onward. The scholarly background of the book is, however, considerably over-blurred by the publishers.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Biology

A TEXT-BOOK OF BIOLOGY—W. M. Smallwood—*Lea & Febiger*, 469 p., \$4. The sixth edition, re-written and revised, of a standard text for general, medical and technical students.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Psychology

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ACHIEVEMENT—Walter R. Pitkin—*Simon and Schuster*, 502 p., \$3.50. You will probably be entertained by reading this book and its discussions of why a variety of men from Babe Ruth to Thomas Carlyle became what they are or were. Appended to the book are a series of impressive-looking charts on which you can diagram your own traits. Popularly presented, but not a weighty contribution to human knowledge.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

General Science

EXPLORATORY SCIENCE SERIES: PLANT AND ANIMAL NEIGHBORS—F. B. Younger, 229 p.; OUR FOOD SUPPLY—A. G. Oosterhous, 252 p.; OUR FORESTS, A NATIONAL PROBLEM—B. J. Rohan, 189 p.; OUR EARTH AND ITS NEIGHBORS—Irma Roemer, 119 p.—C. C. Nelson, \$1 each. We have here a most interesting venture in science book production for secondary schools. All four books in this series were written by members of the faculty of Wilson Junior High School of Appleton, Wis., and published in the same city, under the editorship of Prof. C. O. Davis of the University of Michigan. This collaboration in authorship in one place makes for uniformity in approach to the teaching problems involved, a very desirable thing from the school man's point of view.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Penology-Architecture

PRISONS AND PRISON BUILDING—Alfred Hopkins—*Architectural Book Publishing Co.*, 140 p., \$5. The architect who designs prison buildings must plan a structure adaptable for present methods of treatment of offenders and also for tomorrow's new ways. Does the prison need a wall—where should showers be placed—how is ventilation to be accomplished? The author answers many such questions of interest to anyone who has to do with the housing of prisoners.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931

Aviation

AIR TRAVEL—James E. Mooney—*Scribners*, 303 p., \$1. A history and explanation of aviation written for boys and girls. Suggestions for the organizations on model aircraft clubs are included.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1931