

# • First Glances at New Books

## History

LEIF ERIKSSON, DISCOVERER OF AMERICA A.D. 1003—Edward F. Gray—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 188 p., \$7.50. Relative reliability of the Greenland and Iceland versions of what happened on the Vinland voyages is dealt with very carefully in this appraisal of an old, never completely settled problem. The author concludes that Vinland is to be geographically located in the Cape Cod region. This view receives support from a number of geographical and other local details which the author finds have not been heretofore appreciated.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Aviation

AIRPORTS—Henry V. Hubbard, Miller McClintock, Frank B. Williams—*Harvard Press*, 190 p., \$3.50. As the first publication in the series of Harvard City Planning Studies, conducted by the Graduate School of City Planning at Harvard, this volume should prove of real value to those charged with providing airports for the cities of America. The airport is considered in relation to the city itself and there are also sections of the book devoted to airport administration and the law of airports.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Biography

THOMAS SAY—Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Ziegler—*Thomas*, 260 p., \$5. The authors have placed in their debt all American naturalists and all historians interested in Owens' efforts at the establishment of a communistic society at New Harmony. The materials on the life of this founder of American entomology have hitherto been scattered in a vast variety of corners; it is a joy to see them here assembled into an excellent mosaic portrait.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Botany

PLANT ECOLOGY—W. B. MacDougal—*Lea and Febiger*, 338 p., \$3. A second and revised edition of a successful text.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Botany

FLORA OF THE LANCETILLA VALLEY, HONDURAS—Paul C. Standley—*Field Museum*, 418 p., 68 pl., \$3. Though limited (for the sake of biting off a chewable mouthful) to a single small

area in Central America, this publication will be of use to botanists ranging outside the single valley which is its modest ambit. And since this valley is easily accessible, botanists with only a little time at their disposal for a tropical scouting trip may wish to use it as a "sample."

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Psychology-Physiology

PHYSIQUE AND INTELLECT—Donald G. Paterson—*Century*, 304 p., \$2.50. An excellent review of the statistical evidence, or rather lack of evidence, that there exists any relation between the state of a person's health or his physical make-up, and his mental ability or rate of development.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Electricity

AMBER TO AMPERES—Ernest Greenwood—*Harpers*, 332 p., \$4. The glorification of the social and economic history of electricity through thirty-five centuries. It is full of facts so garnished as to make their assimilation easy.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Zoology-Public Health

RAT PROOFING BUILDINGS AND PREMISES—James Silver, W. E. Crouch and M. C. Betts—*Government Printing Office*, 26 p., 5c. Most of us would rather have snakes around the place than rats. This publication of the U. S. Department of Agriculture gives tested and approved methods for keeping them out.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## History

LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS—Sir Frederick Kenyon—*Ernest Benn, London*, 79 p., 6d. While written primarily for British readers, to acquaint them with the development of their own institutions, this small pamphlet has a more general appeal. The chapters on ancient libraries and museums, particularly, are full of interesting detail.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Physics

EXPERIMENTS IN ATOMIC SCIENCE FOR THE AMATEUR—James L. Clifford—*Gorham Press*, 119 p., \$1.50. The amateur is told how to perform experiments with radioactive substances, ultraviolet light, and other agencies not usually dealt with in cellar laboratories.

## General Nescience

BONERS—By Those Who Pull Them, compiled by Alexander Abingdon—*Viking Press*, 102 p., \$1. Geometry teaches us to bisex angels. The dodo is a bird that is nearly decent now. The whole world, except the United States, lies in the temperate zone. In brief, succinct, authoritative chapters like these, the strength (of diaphragmatic convulsion) that has been ordained out of the mouths of babes convinces us at last that there are new things under the sun, if we only have the ignorance to think of them and the innocence to write them down on examination papers. The only appropriate illustrator for an encyclopedia of howlers like this little volume is, of course, the eminent Dr. Seuss; although his drawings could not possibly improve the text they undoubtedly embellish it.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Geology

LIVING AFRICA—Bailey Willis—*Whittlesey House*, 320 p., \$4. A detective and adventure story is this geological saga of Africa. Interpolated between a technical but lively written statement of the African geological problem and its answer, the reader will find the running account of Dr. Willis' African wanderings. The whole book is a convincing demonstration of the joy of being a rambling geologist.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Political Science

HANDBOOK OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SINCE 1920—Denys P. Myers—*World Peace Foundation*, 320 p., \$2. A handbook of world coöperation as conducted through the League of Nations during the present decade.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Nature Study

STORIES BY SEASONS—Helen von Kolnitz Hyer—*Marshall Jones*, 180 p., \$1.75. A nature book for children, beginning its tale in autumn and carrying it through until the return of spring. Attractively illustrated by R. Bruce Horsfall.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*

## Botany

THE CYPERACEAEN OF CENTRAL AMERICA—Paul C. Standley—*Field Museum*, 53 p., 25c. Of interest to taxonomic botanists.

*Science News Letter, February 21, 1931*