

# • First Glances at New Books

## Physics

**RADIATIONS FROM RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES**—Sir Ernest Rutherford, James Chadwick, and C. D. Ellis—*Macmillan*, 588 p., \$6.50. A long-awaited reissue of the classic text, "Radioactive Substances and Their Radiations," by one of the most distinguished contributors to this field. As the change in title indicates, the unravelling of the long series of radioactive transformations and elements has been omitted in the new volume. Thus more space is now left for the study of recent work on the alpha, beta and gamma rays and the effects produced in their passage through matter. The book stays close to the experimental results and does not use the new quantum theory.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Botany

**SCHOOL BOTANY**—Macgregor Skene—*Oxford University Press*, 240 p., \$1.50. An excellently conceived textbook of pre-college grade, by one of the leading British botanists. It approaches the subject mainly from the point of view of physiology and gross morphology, and does not involve the use of the microscope.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Psychology

**PROBLEM TENDENCIES IN CHILDREN**—Willard C. Olsen—*University of Minnesota Press*, 92 p., \$2. Theoretically, if a thing exists it can be measured, but there have been many practical difficulties in the way of measuring character traits although we all know that they exist. Here is proposed a method for the description and scaling of "problem tendencies."

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Psychology

**BEHAVIORISM**—John B. Watson—*Norton*, 308 p., \$3. This new edition of Dr. Watson's lectures has been revised to bring it up to date, and some new material has been added.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Psychology

**THE BEHAVIOR OF THE NEWBORN INFANT**—Karl Chapman Pratt, Amalie Kraushaar Nelson, and Kuo Hua Sun—*Ohio State University Press*, 237 p., \$3. The report of a very thorough investigation of the response to external stimuli of healthy infants during the first two

weeks of life. The authors, working under the supervision of Drs. Albert Paul Weiss and Andrews Rogers, found no evidence of rage, fear, love, or even the defense reactions which have been previously reported by other investigators in this field.

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## Psychology

**THE ENLARGEMENT OF PERSONALITY**—J. H. Denison—*Scribner's*, 340 p., \$3. The author points out how the Catholic confessional, the Protestant "mourners' bench," the various modern mind cures, and the ancient sacrifices, all may change the personality by creating in the individual a new idea of himself. He believes that this is the key to the problem of becoming what you would like to be.

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## Biology

**A SURVEY OF NATIONAL TRENDS IN BIOLOGY**—Edward G. V. K. Menge—*Bruce*, 156 p., \$2. The author has done a unique thing: he has made a survey of modern biological work not only with the question, "Who?" in his mind but also with the question "Where?" The results, which were presented first as lectures in two South American scientific centers, throw most interesting, and in places most curious, highlights on biological research as it stands at the present moment. Dr. Menge's findings should enable those responsible for the direction of such research either to stress such lines as their special environments may make most profitable, or fill out existing gaps if they aim at completely rounded programs within a given national group.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Chemistry

**FUNDAMENTALS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**—Harry F. Lewis—*McGraw-Hill*, 390 p., \$2.75. A concise and thoroughly up-to-date introduction to all fields of organic chemistry for college and university use, attractively illustrated with photographs of manufacturing plants.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Physics

**ELECTRICITY, A STUDY OF FIRST PRINCIPLES**—Elmer E. Burns—*Van Nostrand*, 235 p. A good high school text with no particular axe to grind.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Zoology

**COLD-BLOODED VERTEBRATES**—Samuel F. Hildebrand, Charles W. Gilmore and Doris M. Cochran—*Smithsonian Institution Series, Inc.*, 375 p. Most of us could profit by a better acquaintance with the three cold-blooded stages that preceded mammals in the development of man's family tree. This new volume in the Smithsonian Institution scientific series gives a most excellent opportunity to do this. Written by authorities, excellently illustrated, most attractively made up, it is a book to be welcomed with pleasure, shown with pride and read with interest.

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Archaeology

**THE BRONZE AGE**—V. Gordon Childe—*Macmillan*, 258 p., \$3.50. Here is a very satisfactory introduction for students to the men and women of the Bronze Age. The first half of the book explains the arts and industries, ornaments, weapons, ships, writing, and other features of life in that period. The second part deals historically with the Bronze Age, entirely north of the Alps. Drawings and a map add to the usefulness of the volume.

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## Psychic Phenomena

**THE ENCHANTED BOUNDARY**—Walter Franklin Prince—*Boston Society for Psychic Research*, 348 p., \$3.25. Attacks upon the validity of psychic phenomena, made by Houdini, Munsterburg, and other individuals, are re-attacked in this volume by Dr. Prince, who is executive officer of the Boston Society for Psychic Research. The scope of the work is indicated in the subtitle "A survey of negative reactions to claims of psychic phenomena, 1820-1930."

*Science News Letter, March 14, 1931*

## Medical History

**PHYSIOLOGY**—John F. Fulton—*Hoerber*, 141 p., \$1.50. Fifth of a series of pocket-sized primers on the history of medicine edited by E. B. Krumhaar, M. D., under the title *Clio Medica*. The style is clear, concise, and readable. Several interesting illustrations, a bibliography and double index add to the value of the book. Of special interest to physicians, but not too technical for the layman with some scientific background.

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