

• First Glances at New Books

Archaeology

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF THE ANDES—Philip Ainsworth Means—*Scribner*, 586 p., \$7.50. An up-to-date general account of the ancient Peruvians was needed, and here it is. The thick volume is crammed with facts in well-ordered arrangement and there are 223 good illustrations. Mr. Means sets the scene of his story in an opening section on geography. Then he reconstructs the culture history of the people of the land down through the remarkable Incan dynasty, introducing archaeological and literary evidence on which the version is based. Then come additional chapters on life in the Incan era and the intellectual attainments of the ancient Andeans, and a 70-page account of one of the greatest Peruvian arts, weaving. A renaissance of former Peruvian genius—if favorable circumstances should arise—is regarded by the author as possible, even likely some day.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Botany

A TEXTBOOK OF BOTANY—J. M. Coulter, C. R. Barnes and H. C. Cowles—*American Book Company*, 3 vols., \$1.80 per vol. The "Chicago text" occupies in America the position that the Strasburger text holds in Germany; it is a classic among American botanical textbooks. Five student generations have whetted their phytological teeth on this book, and it is still good. Now comes a thorough-going revision. The late Prof. J. M. Coulter was able to revise his own volume before he died; the second volume, on physiology, is "neu bearbeitet" by Prof. C. A. Shull; the third, on ecology, is still in preparation, being worked over by its author and Prof. G. D. Fuller. It will be a great thing to have a completely rejuvenated Chicago text available.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Physics

UNITS USED TO EXPRESS THE WAVE LENGTHS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES—Henry D. Hubbard—*Government Printing Office*, 4 p., 5c. Now that the electromagnetic spectrum from slowly alternating electrical impulses to the shortest of X-rays has been proved to be one continuous spread of radiation, it is necessary to express wave lengths and frequencies in the same sort of language for the various sort of phenomena. This little Bureau of Stand-

ards pamphlet will help those working in one area of the spectrum to translate their measurements into terms of other areas.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Ethnology

ETHNOLOGY OF THE MAYAS OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH HONDURAS—J. Eric Thompson—*Field Museum*, 210 p., \$3. "A few embers of the fire of Maya culture still continue to glow dimly," writes Mr. Thompson. "It has been my aim to gather these isolated sparks before all is trampled out by the onward rush of what we, in our insularity, call progress." Ethnologists will be grateful for this publication salvaging so much regarding the religion, magic, industry, folklore, and other factors of native Mayan life.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Psychology—Child Training

THE YOUNG CHILD AND HIS PARENTS—Josephine C. Foster and John E. Anderson—*University of Minnesota Press*, 247 p., \$2. Those who realize that generalizations seldom apply to any one child will welcome this volume in which the problems connected with the upbringing of one hundred normal children are described separately. The lover of statistics will appreciate the summary in the introduction in which he may learn such facts as that the average number of "problems" per child was 2.9.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Physics

MAGNETIC PHENOMENA, AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE—Samuel R. Williams—*McGraw-Hill*, 230 p., \$3. A timely college book on this somewhat neglected field. Dr. Williams hopes to stimulate upper classmen and recent graduates to choose research in magnetism as a life interest and thus help fill the gap. This attractive study of the magnetics, mechanics, acoustics, electrics, thermics, and optics of magnetic phenomena puts the subject in quite a different light from the usual chapters of the electricity text.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Geology

ELEMENTARY ECONOMIC GEOLOGY—H. Ries—*Wiley*, 360 p., \$3.75. A well gotten up textbook suitable for university use.

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Ornithology

PADDLEWINGS—Wilfred S. Bronson—*Macmillan*, 106 p., \$2. Not quite a year ago a new producer of books for children hove over the literary-artistic-scientific horizon, with a most charming work, "Fingerfins". With "Paddlewings" Mr. Bronson makes his second bow, telling quite as charmingly about a young penguin brought home by a recent scientific expedition to the Galápagos islands. The artist-author has an astonishing gift for finding simple and apt analogies to make his ideas stick, he has taken pains to be scientifically accurate, and he skillfully avoids the "writing down" flavor painfully evident in many books for children. Altogether, "Paddlewings" is a most worthy sib to "Fingerfins"; and it is to be hoped that they will be the first of a very large fraternity.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1931

Chemistry—Geology

PETROLEUM FACTS AND FIGURES—*Public Relations Department—American Petroleum Institute*, 232 p., \$2. The third edition of a useful handbook published by the petroleum industry.

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Biology—Philosophy

THE INTERPRETATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND HEREDITY—E. S. Russell—*Oxford*, 312 p., \$5. "Materialism as a philosophical doctrine has long been dead, and as a scientific method its limitations are now becoming apparent." With this challenging sentence the author opens his chapter on The Organismal Point of View; and as wide a departure from the self-satisfied dogmatism of the late nineteenth century marks all of his utterances. He may be sharply disagreed with by some biologists, but he will be as vigorously championed by others. At any rate, Haeckel is dead and biologists are thinking again.

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Mathematics

STANDARD TABLE OF SQUARE ROOTS—L. M. Milne-Thomson—*Bell*, 50 p., \$2.50. For computers. The square roots to eight significant figures of all four-figure numbers, with printed differences. The differences allow good estimates of numbers having more than four figures. Well printed.

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