

# • First Glances at New Books

## Evolution

THE PROBLEMS OF EVOLUTION—A. W. Lindsey—*Macmillan*, 236 p., \$2. That evolution happened, scientists no longer dispute. Why it happened, they no longer question. But when it comes to *how* it happened, they are like the famous Men of Hindustan. Truly, it is an elephant of a subject, and there is plenty of space for divergent points of view. Although the author of this compact and well-presented dissertation has himself something of a Lamarckian slant, he does not attempt finality, and he leads his reader to many a useful vantage point to take another look from.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Speech

PRONUNCIATION, A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AMERICAN STANDARDS—Thorlief Larsen and Francis C. Walker—*Oxford University Press*, 198 p., \$2.50. The accepted usage of educated Americans is faithfully recorded and so presented that the layman can readily refer to it. Principles of good speech, as well as specific lists of words, are given. A useful little book.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Mechanical Engineering

HEAT ENGINES—Charles N. Cross—*Macmillan*, 607 p., \$6. The fundamental laws of gases and the laws of thermodynamics, together with description of the modern forms of prime movers, their operating characteristics and representative performance results of each type and size, are included in this textbook. Especially pleasing is the fact that the author has consulted the researches of the original investigators and given reference to their original papers.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Zoology

A MONOGRAPH OF THE EXISTING CRINOIDS. VOL. I, THE COMATULIDS. PART 3, SUPERFAMILY COMASTERIDA—Austin Hobard Clark—*Government Printing Office*, 816 p., 82 pl., \$2. Before Mr. Clark began his labors on the crinoids, it used to be easily asserted that this particular division of the echinoderm phylum was a "dying race," whose best days had been seen in previous geological ages. Thanks to his indefatigable efforts, the crinoids have been proved to be very much alive. When this monograph is finally com-

pleted, it will be a monumental affair of half-a-dozen volumes, summing up the world's knowledge of this interesting group of animals.

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## Volcanology

PHYSICS OF THE EARTH. I: VOLCANOLOGY—Subsidiary Committee on Volcanology of the National Research Council—*National Research Council*, 77 p., \$1. It is highly appropriate that the new series of the National Research Council, covering the general field of geophysics, should be initiated with this book on volcanology, for volcanic activity is the most awesome and impressive of the more rapidly-moving phenomena of earth changes. The three chapters are contributed respectively by Karl Sapper, Immanuel Friedlaender and T. A. Jaggar.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Meteorology

PHYSICS OF THE EARTH. III: METEOROLOGY—Subsidiary Committee on Meteorology of the National Research Council—*National Research Council*, 289 p., \$3.50. A symposium by eight leading workers in one of the most difficult of sciences, wherein an effort at laboratory exactness must be made under field conditions with phenomena traditionally difficult to predict and impossible to control. This book, one of a new National Research Council series in the geophysical sciences, contains in compact form the latest information about meteorology and the best methods for dealing with its problems.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Psychology

THE MEASUREMENT OF NERVOUS HABITS IN NORMAL CHILDREN—Willard C. Olson—*University of Minnesota Press*, 97 p., \$2. Describing a method for determining to what extent children are troubled with nervous habits such as thumb sucking, nail biting, twisting hair, and so on. The author also tells how these things originate.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Ornithology

LOCAL BIRD REFUGES—W. L. McAttee—*Government Printing Office*, 14 p., 5c. A Farmers' Bulletin (No. 1644) giving practical suggestions in the new movement to establish little scraps of brushy woodland everywhere, as natural shelters for songbirds.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Meteorology

THE REALM OF THE AIR—Charles Fitzhugh Talman—*Bobbs Merrill*, 318 p., \$4. The librarian of the world's largest meteorological library at the United States Weather Bureau in Washington and author of Science Service's daily syndicated feature articles under the title "Why the Weather?" here presents interestingly and accurately some of the wonders of the weather. After you read it for entertainment, you will wish to keep it on your reference shelf.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## General Science

STANDARDS YEARBOOK 1931—National Bureau of Standards—*U. S. Government Printing Office*, 399 p., \$1. A wealth of interesting and valuable information is contained in this annual volume of the National Bureau of Standards of the United States Department of Commerce. In addition to reports of the many projects of the National Bureau of Standards, the activities of foreign governments and American trade associations receive attention. It is a valuable source book.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Bacteriology

COMPEND OF BACTERIOLOGY—Robert L. Pitfield and Howard W. Schaffer—*Blakiston's*, 317 p., \$2. A compact handbook for physicians and medical students.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Geology-Metallurgy

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ORE DEPOSITS—F. H. Hatch—*University of Chicago Press*, 117 p., \$2.50. A concise and informed account of the formation of ore deposits by differentiation, by gaseous emanations, by thermal waters, by mechanical agencies, and by chemical precipitation and their transformation. Written for engineers.

*Science News Letter, April 18, 1931*

## Nature Study

WONDERS OF THE PLANT WORLD—W. A. DuPuy—*Heath*, 196 p., 88c. A supplementary science reader for the upper grades, dealing in out-of-the-way facts in plant life, or in familiar phenomena given a twist in the direction of the remarkable. The author affects short sentences and a crisp, "peppy" style that will prove very attractive to the younger generation.

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