

• First Glances at New Books

Philosophy

SCIENCE AND FIRST PRINCIPLES—F. S. C. Northrop—*Macmillan*, 299 p., \$3. Moderns are much given to snorting at the philosophies of antiquity and the scholasticism of the middle ages, bragging that they "prefer to stick to facts." The thing such an attitude overlooks is that Aristotle and Aquinas were also sticking to facts, to the best facts they could get hold of, and that their whole striving was to stick these same facts together and make a working universe out of them. We have a vastly larger mass of much more definitely founded facts, and synthesizers so far have not been able to make a complete system of them. But that should not discourage efforts at synthesis; and books such as the present one are worthy of all praise as courageous endeavors at a task bigger than that faced by the thinkers of any earlier era.

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General Science

SCIENCE DISCOVERY BOOKS—H. A. Carpenter and G. C. Wood—*Allyn and Bacon*, Book I, 90c; Book II, \$1; Book III, \$1.20. These three books consist of thick blank notebooks which the student is to fill in for himself, largely from his own observations of his environment, guided by a few pertinent questions inserted at strategic points.

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Mathematics

COLLEGE ALGEBRA—W. L. Hart—*Heath*, 380+42 p., \$2.12. A rich and flexible course in algebra for college students. The alternate edition has been rewritten without alteration of the main features and the exercises have been completely rewritten. Chapters on complex numbers, theory of equations, determinants, and the mathematics of investment are included.

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Entomology—History of Science

A HISTORY OF ENTOMOLOGY—E. O. Essig—*Macmillan*, 1029 p., \$10. This book should properly be titled "A History of Economic Entomology in California." It is not a history of entomology in general, and its emphasis on California conditions and persons give it a very strict geographical limitation. However, within the smaller field as thus defined it is a very good book indeed, and deserves a place on the

shelves of students, wherever they may be, who are interested in California entomology. An especially praiseworthy feature is a three-column tabulation, occupying 141 pages, of the principal events in entomology, with the birth-dates and death-dates of entomologists on either side.

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History of Science

TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF SCIENCE—R. J. Harvey-Gibson—*Macmillan*, 508 p., \$3.50. To be strictly accurate, this book should be called "Five Hundred Years of Science," for all the obscure ancient and medieval roots of modern science are dismissed in about a score of pages. The author does not really get down to business until he begins his account of progress from the sixteenth century onward, and nearly half the total space is devoted to the section on Science of Today. With this limitation clear, the book can be recommended as readable and popular.

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Geography-Ethnology

AFRICA VIEW—Julian Huxley—*Harpers*, 478 p., \$5. This book might with equal justice be called "Views on Africa"; for the noted author has opinions as well as observations as the result of his African travels, and does not hesitate to express them in the vigorous style characteristic of him.

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Genetics

GENETIC STUDIES OF GENIUS, VOL. III, THE PROMISE OF YOUTH—Barbara S. Burks, Dortha W. Jensen, Lewis M. Terman, and others—*Stanford University Press*, 508 p., \$6. The thousand gifted children discussed in the famous first volume of this series are older by six years now, and are fulfilling their early promise by securing honors in high school and college although their IQ's have dropped somewhat. The report of the investigation is supplemented by case studies and selections of the literary work of juvenile authors.

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Physics

ESSENTIALS OF PHYSICS—Frederick E. Sears—*Laurel Book Company*, 596 p., \$1.76. A well-organized textbook of physics for secondary schools, in its second edition.

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Anthropology

NEW DISCOVERIES RELATING TO THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN—Sir Arthur Keith—*Norton*, 512 p., \$5. A noted English investigator in one of the most fascinating, and most disputed, fields of study sets down the principal facts regarding such discoveries as that of Taungs, Chou Kou Tien and the Gadarene cave, together with his interpretations of them. The presentation is largely technical, not intended for the non-scientific reader.

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Travel-Zoology

ADVENTURES IN THE AFRICAN JUNGLE—Carl and Mary L. Jobe Akeley—*Dodd, Mead*, 275 p., \$3. A generation already becoming a little bored with "animal stuff" in the movies is apt to forget the debt it owes to the late Carle Akeley for his skill in organizing and his energy and will in leading expeditions into the great game country, bringing out whole groups of specimens, miles of camera film and solid additions to the lore of field zoology. This book, written in a style as vigorous as that of his sculptural compositions, will serve as a memento and a monument.

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Ecology

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANT DEVELOPMENT—Hennik Lundegardh, transl. by Eric Ashby—*Arnold*, 330 p., \$9.50. Ecologists in Europe and America started pretty far apart and for some time it looked as though they would never really get together. But of recent years there has been an encouraging "spreading out" by workers on both sides of the water, so that now they speak a common language. Dr. Lundegardh's work is an excellent presentation of the viewpoint and methods of the physiological ecologist, and in rendering it into good, straightforward English Dr. Ashby has performed a distinct service to English-speaking workers in the plant sciences.

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Biography

EDWARD W. D. HOLWAY. A PIONEER OF THE CANADIAN ALPS—Howard Palmer—*Univ. of Minnesota*, 80 p., \$1.50. An account of the mountaineering achievements of a man who was also a successful banker and a botanist.

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