

• First Glances at New Books

Philosophy

THE LOGIC OF SCIENCE—Harold R. Smart—*Appleton*, 237 p., \$2.50. The business of accumulating scientific facts has of late become so easy and so fascinating that we are all apt to become like children gathering bright pebbles in a brook. It must not be forgotten, however, that data are only the raw materials of science, and that hard, continuous thinking—which has to be done “by hand”; no shining laboratory apparatus can help—is the cement needed to fasten all these *disjuncta* together and make a really finished job. Books like Dr. Smart's are inducements to enter upon this more difficult path and helps in travelling it.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1931

Public Health

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS—Jessamine S. Whitney—*National Tuberculosis Association*, 63 p., 75c in paper cover, \$1 in flexible fabricoid. This book is the answer to the question, “Please send me all statistics on tuberculosis.” It will be useful to various workers in the field of tuberculosis and may have some interest for tuberculous patients or their friends with a taste for figures.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1931

Mathematics

ELEMENTS OF ANALYTIC GEOMETRY—Clyde L. Love—*Macmillan*, 149 p., \$1.60. An abridgement of the author's “Analytic Geometry” for short courses in college and university. The straight line, the circle, conic sections, and solid geometry are all well treated.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1931

Child Hygiene

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE, 1930—*Century*, 356 p. The addresses and abstracts of the committee reports of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection called by President Herbert Hoover have been collected in this volume, together with names of committee members and chairmen. Of interest to workers in the broad field of child health and welfare.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1931

Botany

TAXONOMY OF THE FLOWERING PLANTS—A. M. Johnson—*Century*, 864 p., \$7.50. Prof. Johnson makes a noteworthy contribution to the bookshelf of the botanist who is trying to teach his students something really solid

about the classification of plants, for besides thorough-going discussions of the principles underlying taxonomy he offers penetrating descriptions of the principal groups, illustrated with hundreds of excellent pen drawings made by himself, together with useful hints for field work. There is a fairly full glossary and a very well-chosen bibliography.

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History

THE VINLAND VOYAGES—Matthias Thordarson, translated by Thorstina Jackson Walters—*Amer. Geographical Society*, 76 p., \$2. The effort to interpret the writings that tell about the Norse voyages to America has been going on for a long time. In this small book by the director of the National Museum of Iceland, the events of the voyages are rehearsed and most of the really plausible theories and explanations are discussed.

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Physics

BRIEF COURSE IN PHYSICS—Chas. H. Lake and George P. Unsell—*Heath*, 468 p., \$1.68. A very attractive high school text that attempts to establish the essential scientific laws before diverting the pupil with a wealth of applications. The author has had in mind the usual difficulties of college teachers: haziness as to the meaning of fundamental terms and lack of facility in simple mathematical manipulation. The text has been read and criticised by Dr. K. T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. W. R. Whitney, director of the General Electric research laboratory in Schenectady. It should be admirable for students embarking on a scientific career. The book is well illustrated.

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Photography

APPLIED PHOTOGRAPHY, *Eastman Kodak Company*, Vol. 1, No. 1, May, 1931, 50c. An inspiring magazine that presents the best current uses of photography in business and industry. This first number contains nearly thirty excellent reproductions of such subjects as tractors, railway equipment, musical instruments, anesthetics and arc welding. The publishers plan to issue the magazine every second month at the start.

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General Discussion

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM, Vol. 1, No. 1, Published at Berlin-Charlottenburg, Konigin-Luise-Strasse 12, 20c. The first issue of a new monthly periodical, for the exposition of German, American and British ideas, written in English. Quoting from the editorial: “What we require in the *mélée* of our woes and worries is a little calm and sound and serious thinking on the part of people who devote themselves to it for its own sake and not for the sake of furthering some contingent interest.” Contributors to the first issue include Max Planck, founder of the quantum theory, Erwin Schroedinger of the new quantum mechanics, Arnold Zweig and John Galsworthy. For succeeding issues Thomas Mann, H. N. Thomlinson, Gerhardt Hauptmann, Hermann Weyl, Wolfgang Kohler and John Drinkwater promise contributions. Einstein, Shaw, James Stephens, Sean O'Casey and Lion Feuchtwanger are also associated with the venture. From such a cast something significant can be confidently expected. Planck's article in the present issue is particularly interesting.

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Geophysics

THE FIGURE OF THE EARTH—*National Research Council*, 286 p., \$3.50. Leading men in several branches of geophysics have prepared this monograph, which constitutes Bulletin No. 81 of the National Research Council. Tidal theory and computations, earth tides, isostasy, the size and shape of the earth, determination of “g”, the determination of elevations and geographic positions, and the variation of latitude are among the problems dealt with.

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Travel

JUNGLE WAYS—William B. Seabrook—*Harcourt, Brace*, 308 p., \$3.50. As in his book “The Magic Island” the author concentrates upon strange and fantastic aspects of native life. This time Africa is the scene, and Mr. Seabrook introduces us to the Guéré cannibals, with whom he lived for some months, also to the sorcery and magic of the jungle, and the little-known cliff dwellers who live east of Timbuctoo. It is all very dramatically and entertainingly told.

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