

• First Glances at New Books

Physics

THIS MECHANICAL WORLD—Morton Mott-Smith—*Appleton*, 233 p., \$2. This is the latest of the "New World of Science" series edited by Watson Davis, managing editor of Science Service. The series addresses itself to the intelligent general reader without training, who wishes to get a vivid view of a broad field of science. Dr. Mott-Smith has shown clearly in this book that it is not necessary to go into the more abstruse incantations of the new physics in order to produce an intellectually stimulating book. It is also clear that the essential nature of physical thinking can be disclosed to the layman without the aid of repellent, arid, mathematical abstractions—a fact that was shown by Mach and Tyndall but has been somewhat forgotten by the present generation of physicists. This is the book that college teachers of physics to non-scientific students have been looking for.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Ornithology

THE BIRDS OF HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—Alexander Wetmore and Bradshaw H. Swales—*Government Printing Office*, 26 p., \$1. The avifauna of the first large island that Columbus found has remained among the least known of all American groups, though it contains many very interesting forms. The authors, therefore, have made ornithologists, and naturalists generally, their debtors by the production of this well-rounded monograph. A number of the plates illustrating characteristic species are by Allan Brooks.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Medicine

TALKS ON TUBERCULOSIS WITH PATIENTS AND THEIR FRIENDS—John B. Hawes 2nd—*Houghton Mifflin*, 179 p., \$2. A practical, helpful book covering the subject completely for the patient from the nature of the disease and early symptoms to advice on occupations for the ex-consumptive and a library for the tuberculous.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Biography

COPE: MASTER NATURALIST—Henry Fairfield Osborn—*Princeton University Press*, 740 p., \$5. One of the great figures that dominated American natural science during its period of early matur-

ity in the latter half of the nineteenth century here finds a worthy biographer in the Nestor of present-day American paleontology.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

History

ANCIENT JERUSALEM—James Baikie—*Black, London*, 90 p., 2s 6d. A little history of Jerusalem down to the time of Christ. The story is vividly told by an archaeologist who specialized in the civilizations of the East. One of the series entitled "Peeps at Ancient Civilizations."

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Medicine

CANCER AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH—Barbara Holmes—*Macmillan*, 160 p., \$1.50. Preface by Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, President of the Royal Society. This splendid small volume gives the lay reader an idea of the scientific and statistical work being done in the laboratory on cancer. The emphasis is on the search for the causes of cancer rather than on efforts to cure the disease. Explanation of the technical terms is given in detail in the appendix which is considerably more than a glossary. There is also an index. This is one of the Sheldon Books of Popular Science.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Sociology

RURAL GIRLS IN THE CITY FOR WORK—O. Latham Hatcher—*Garrett and Massie*, 154 p., \$1.75, postage extra, \$1.90 postpaid if check sent with order. The book is an account of a study made for the Southern Women's Educational Alliance. It should be of great interest to social workers, educators, leaders of recreational agencies, and vocational trainers. It is nontechnical, all statistical material being grouped in a final chapter. The study was limited to Virginia and North Carolina, but that does not lessen its value or interest.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Radio

RADIO HANDBOOK—James A. Moyer and John F. Wostrel—*McGraw-Hill*, 886 p., \$5. A comprehensive volume containing in small compass much fundamental information about radio and other related fields such as photoelectricity, television and sound motion pictures.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Anthropology

RATIONAL EVOLUTION—Robert Briffault—*Macmillan*, 302 p., \$3.50. "Man is anxious not to know the truth. He uses his intelligence, as no other animal is permitted to use its means of guidance, to suppress what he accounts unpleasant facts, and to establish belief in what harmonises not with his experience, but with his wishes." The broad outlines of history have been rewritten in the light of this point of view by the author of the encyclopaedic three-volume book. "The Mothers." At another place he says: "The traditional heritage is not only a precious storehouse of accumulated experience and power; it is also a cesspool of superstition." It is Dr. Briffault's thesis that the decay of the historic civilizations was not inevitable and the causes are traceable to the falsification of thought processes.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Medicine

FOOD POISONING AND FOOD-BORNE INFECTION—Edwin O. Jordan—*University of Chicago Press*, 286 p., \$2.50. Latest information on this important subject has been gathered for this rewriting of the book. Not too technical for the intelligent reader who wants to know about botulism, poisonous plants, tapeworms and similar subjects included in the scope of this book. The illustrations are very helpful.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

General Science

EXPLORATIONS AND FIELD WORK OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN 1930—*Smithsonian Inst.* 224 p. In this annual publication, Smithsonian representatives "get together" in print to tell briefly what the adventures of the year have been. The expeditions of 1930 include a quest for the ancient relatives of living whales, a biological collecting trip on Tin-Can Island, excavation of mounds of the vanished Calusa Indians of Florida, and 27 more adventures in the United States and abroad.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Biology

ESSENTIALS OF BIOLOGY—W. H. D. Meier and Lois Meier—*Ginn*, 529 p., \$1.68. A general biology textbook for use in normal and secondary schools, clearly written and well illustrated.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931