

# • First Glances at New Books

## Psychology

**CREATIVE MIND**—C. Spearman—*Appleton*, 162 p., \$2. The British psychologist explores the "springs and mechanisms" by which the human mind creates in the fields of pictorial and other fine arts and also scientific invention and discovery.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Exploration

**BY DOG SLED FOR BYRD**—John S. O'Brien—*Rockwell*, 192 p., \$2. So brilliant were the plane flights on Eyrd's Antarctic expedition that we are prone to forget the slower but no less heroic treks that ground parties made with the time-honored method of dog sleds. Here Byrd's surveyor tells us something about it, in a well gotten up, well illustrated book.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Lexicography-Medicine

**A PRACTICAL MEDICAL DICTIONARY**—Thomas L. Stedman—*Wood*, 122 p., \$7.50. Eleventh revised edition of this dictionary which was originally published to correct certain mistakes in medical orthography. The appendix has tables of drugs, weights and measures, symbols, stethoscopic abbreviations, comparative temperature and barometric scales, table of elements and table of important pathogenic microparasites.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Bacteriology—Soil Science

**THE SOIL AND THE MICROBE**—S. A. Waksman and R. L. Starkey—*Wiley*, 260 p., \$3.50. Students of bacteriology and of soil science will unite in welcoming this authoritative text, giving the best and most recent information and interpretation of what is at once the most elusive group of microorganisms and the most baffling of soil phenomena.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Botany

**FERNS AND FLOWERING PLANTS OF HAWAII NATIONAL PARK**—Otto Degener—*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, 312 p., 95 pl., \$4. This is a most worthy addition to the growing natural history literature of our national parks. The author, who has been in Hawaii long enough to be thoroughly acquainted with their unique and interesting flora, and has had considerable experience in

the U. S. National Park Service, is qualified both as a botanist and as a popularizer to produce a book such as this. The present work not only gives good popular accounts of the plants, illustrated with clear-cut line drawings, but also makes interesting excursions into ethnobotany, plant economics and geological history, presenting thus an unusually well-rounded picture. Mr. Degener also has in preparation a more strictly technical **FLORA HAWAIIENSIS**, the first fascicle of which is about ready for publication.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Ethnology

**THE KAMIA OF IMPERIAL VALLEY**—E. W. Gifford—*Government Printing Office*, 94 p., 25c. The Kamia Indians may have entered the Imperial Valley of California no earlier than the nineteenth century, is one conclusion by the author of this monograph. That these Indians have 30 culture traits out of 46 in common with the Yuma is another conclusion. Six Indian informants aided in the field study, which was a joint undertaking of the Bureau of American Ethnology and the University of California.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Psychology

**DISCOVERING OURSELVES**—Edward A. Strecker and Kenneth E. Appel—*Macmillan*, 306 p., \$3. An excellent introduction to mental hygiene. It should prove interesting and helpful to a wide audience.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## General Science

**FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE**—G. A. Bowden—*Blakiston*, 753 p., \$1.68. A textbook in general science suitable for junior high school work. The author shows great ingenuity in outlining experiments that can be performed with home-made apparatus; his vocabulary, however, in places seems a bit too "grown-up" for his audience.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Ornithology

**BIRD BANDING BY SYSTEMATIC TRAPPING**—S. Prentiss Baldwin—*Cleveland Museum of Natural History*, 43 p. An account of methods and results, by one of the best known of American field ornithologists.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Physics

**OPTICKS; OR A TREATISE OF THE REFLECTIONS, REFRACTIONS, INFLECTIONS AND COLOURS OF LIGHT**—Sir Isaac Newton—*McGraw-Hill*, 414 p., \$2.50. A most commendable project is this reprinting of Newton's great work on light. It is important, as the editors point out, because Newton's corpuscular theory of light transmission is once more an up-to-date hypothesis of physics. But further, the book is interesting as an informal account of the delightful time which the author had devising experiments with that loveliest of media—color. The editors have done well to preserve the quaint language of the original, and to follow the typographical form so closely.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Geography

**THE PACIFIC BASIN**—G. L. Wood—*Oxford*, 340 p., \$4. To compress the essentials of geographic, ethnologic and economic information about the greatest ocean, the great lands that border it and the countless islands that bestrew it, all into one average-sized book is a very considerable undertaking. The author has achieved a considerable measure of success by judicious choosing and eliminating and by terse vigor in presentation.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Entomology

**TROPISMS AND SENSE ORGANS OF COLEOPTERA**—N. E. McIndoo—*Smithsonian Institution*, 70 p., 40c. One of the outstanding jobs of entomologists today is to devise methods for inducing insect pests to "follow their noses" to the destruction prepared for them. In this brochure one of the leading students of insect tropisms tells of the queer places where insects carry their "noses" and other sense organs, and of what kinds of lures work best on them.

*Science News Letter, May 30, 1931*

## Psychology

**MINNESOTA MECHANICAL ABILITY TESTS**—D. G. Paterson, R. M. Elliott, L. Dewey Anderson, H. A. Toops, and Edna Heidbreder—*University of Minnesota Press*, 586 p., \$5. A comprehensive report of an important investigation promoted by a committee of the National Research Council. The tests are given in full, and excellent illustrations show the equipment used.

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