

# • First Glances at New Books

## Biography

**GALILEO, SEARCHER OF THE HEAVENS**—Emil Namer—transl. by Sibyl Harris—*McBride*, 298 p., \$3.75. Here is a story that grows more and more interesting for the present generation, the story of a great thinker who observed and analyzed the world instead of turning his back to it and thus laid the foundation of modern science. Mindful of the cruel death of Giordano Bruno, Galileo prudently described his great astronomical and dynamical discoveries for long without suggesting any inferences unpalatable to the Inquisition. The painful story of his losing struggle with the political forces of his time is clearly portrayed in this fine biography. Galileo heroically kept up his continuous flow of fundamental discoveries in the midst of constant uncertainty, thanks to the encouragement of friends—among them, curiously, the cardinal who as Pope later had to force Galileo's imprisonment.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Sociology

**THE FAMILY**—Edward B. Reuter and Jessie R. Runner—*McGraw-Hill*, 615 p., \$4. A collection of source material by a great number of prominent writers on a wide variety of aspects of a familiar problem.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Engineering

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS**, Vol. I, 1336 p., 15 pl.; Vol. II, 1085 p. Volume I contains committee reports, new and revised standards, and tentative revisions of standards; volume II contains technical papers presented at the society's Atlantic City meeting in 1930.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Psychology

**THE ART OF STUDY**—T. H. Pear—*Dutton*, 117 p., \$1.50. Very helpful to young students.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Public Health

**YEARBOOK 1930-1931**—*American Public Health Association*, 320 p., \$3. Public health workers will welcome this book, the first yearbook published by the Association. It gives much useful information never before easily located, including the committee reports of the 59th annual meeting of the Association,

in 1930, the constitution, objectives and history of the Association, and list of members.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Exploration

**UNDER THE NORTH POLE**—Sir Hubert Wilkins—*Brewer Warren and Putnam*, 347 p., \$3. The commander of the newest and most daring, and at the same time scientifically the most promising of North Pole ventures here tells of his plans, preparations and hopes.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Medicine

**NERVOUS INDIGESTION**—Walter C. Alvarez—*Hoeber*, 297 p., \$3.75. This splendid book is intended primarily for medical students and physicians, but it is not technical and might also be read with profit by patients who suffer from nervous indigestion.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Psychology

**PERSONALITY**—A. A. Roback—*Sci-Art, Cambridge*, 144 p., \$1.25. A non-technical summary of the scientific research in this field. The author believes that personalities are both born and made, and here gives some advice on re-making. An excellent bibliography is appended.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Economics

**SHIP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION**—H. S. Perry—*Simmons-Boardman* 310 p., \$4. The author undertakes, with a considerable measure of success, to give a complete statement in one volume about ships, ship management and ship operation—architecture, economics, personnel problems, interaction with national polity.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## General Information

**OFFICIAL YEARBOOK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 1930**—C. H. Wickens—*J. H. Green, Government Printer, Melbourne*, 806 p., 7s 2d. A report of the year's progress in economics, science and other fields in the great southern commonwealth.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Biology

**ESSENTIALS OF BIOLOGY**—W. H. D. Meier and Lois Meier—*Ginn*, 529 p., \$1.68. A textbook suitable for use in normal and secondary schools.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Ornithology

**THE BOBWHITE QUAIL**—H. L. Stoddard—*Scribner's*, 559 p., 69 pl., \$6. All sorts of people, ranging all the way from sportsmen who hunt the bobwhite to bird-lovers who think shooting is a sin, will welcome this thoroughly exhaustive yet thoroughly readable book about the most charming of American game birds. The author has had unusual opportunities for the study of the bobwhite and has made the most of them. His knowledge is encyclopedic: life history, food habits, diseases and enemies, management on preserves and rearing on quail farms—these are only a few samples of the dozens of topics treated.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Industry

**THE WONDERFUL STORY OF INDUSTRY**—Ellen Friel Baker—*Crowell*, 308 p., \$2.50. Accounts of the making of shoes, paper, rubber, sugar and a lot of other things, told as conversations between a boy named Charlie and an astonishingly well-informed grownup.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Agriculture

**YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE: 1931**—*Government Printing Office*, 1113 p., \$1.50. The 1930 drought, the economic status of American agriculture, an alphabet of crops from Abacá to Wool, and half a thousand pages of information-crammed statistical tables feature this year's official summary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## General Science

**ABSTRACTS OF THESESES: SCIENCE SERIES, VOLUME VII**—*University of Chicago Press*, 420 p., \$3. With this publication of abstracts of doctors' theses for 1928-1929, the University of Chicago continues a praiseworthy practice that might profitably be followed by all institutions granting higher degrees.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## Botany

**A FIELD KEY TO THE GENERA OF THE WILD AND CULTIVATED HARDY TREES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND CANADA**—Mary Franklin Barrett—*Independent Press, Bloomfield, N. J.*, 40 p., 35c. A compact artificial key, not too technical, running trees and larger shrubs to their genera; seems to work well.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*