

• First Glances at New Books

Biochemistry

THE VITAMINS—H. C. Sherman and L. C. Smith—*Chemical Catalog*, 575 p., \$6. The sense of confusion that even the trained chemist experiences on contemplating the subject of vitamins is to some extent explained when he turns to the latter half of this volume. There he will find a bibliography covering 172 pages, which does not claim to include even all worthy contributions. In the second edition of this work Drs. Sherman and Smith give a pathway through this jungle of papers not only for professional chemists but for physiologists, pathologists and nutrition and health specialists. It is excellently done. Especially interesting is the conclusion that is emerging from this work, that several of the vitamins are of very different nature from each other.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Physics

THE TALKIES—A. E. Krows—*Holt*, 245 p., \$2. Briskly written, diagrammatically illustrated, spiced with vigorous and often caustic comment on the policies of the movie powers-that-be, this book promises a double service of distributing information and helping to crystallize informed opinion.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Psychology

EFFECTIVE THINKING—Joseph Jastrow—*Simon and Schuster*, 271 p., \$2.50. A popularly written work supplying some useful aids to clear thinking and pointing out many of the impediments which make thinking "go wrong."

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Biography

LORD BALFOUR IN HIS RELATION TO SCIENCE—Lord Rayleigh—*Cambridge University Press*, 46 p., \$1. A brief biography of an English man of affairs who was also a competent scholar.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Zoology

INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY—H. J. Van Cleave—*McGraw-Hill*, 282 p., \$3. A second edition of a successful textbook, excellently adapted for advanced classes in zoology.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Economics

NEW WAYS TO MAKE MONEY—Roger W. Babson—*Harpers*, 205 p., \$2.50. A book on a topic that every-

body will be interested in these days, by the only economic prophet who wasn't fooled by post-war "Bull" prosperity. Some of Mr. Babson's suggestions are speculative to the point of being visionary; but it is hardly likely that the author meant all of his suggestions to be carried out by next Saturday noon.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Sociology

THE TRAGEDIES OF PROGRESS—Gina Lombroso—*Dutton*, 329 p., \$3.75. Modernity as Moloch is an old, old theme: its latest expression, the attack on the machine age, found its first Jeremiahs in Morris and Ruskin. Since their day the pace has been sharpened and the tone intensified. It is not surprising then, to find that the woman who is daughter of Cesare Lombroso and wife of Guglielmo Ferrero looks upon present-day civilization and finds it most decidedly not good.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Literature-General Science

WINTER CRYSTALS AND OTHER MARVELS—Compiled by Jane Dudley—*Eagle Press, Whitinsville, Mass.*, 127 p., \$5. A number of snow and ice crystal photographs by Bentley and of cloud pictures by McAdie, grouped with suitable quotations from the best nature poetry and prose of a couple of centuries.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Astronomy

THE SPLENDOR OF THE HEAVENS—Edited by T. E. R. Phillips and W. H. Steavenson—*McBride*, 980 p., \$8.50. No one who is familiar with the earlier edition of this fine work in popular astronomy will need any urging to be interested in this new printing. It is up to the standards of the old in lucidity and vigor of presentation, as well as in the diagrammatic clearness of its host of illustrations. It is highly regrettable, however, that a work of such pretension, bearing the publication date of 1931, should have no mention whatever of the recently discovered trans-Neptunian planet Pluto.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Engineering

THE STADIUM—M. W. Serby—*American Institute of Steel Construction*, 64 p., \$1.50. A brief treatise on the design of stadiums and their equipment.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Philosophy

HUMANISM AND SCIENCE—C. J. Keyser—*Columbia University Press*, 243 p., \$3. Humanism derives its existence, according to Prof. Keyser, from the sense in men that "they are potentially qualified to judge independently and for themselves, in all the great matters of human concern, and that they may hope to achieve a good life on earth by the use of their human faculties." Prof. Keyser shows that a proper understanding of the method and results of science need not undermine man's faith in his significance or future.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Entomology

THE ASTONISHING ANT—Julie C. Kenly—*Appleton*, 251 p., \$2.50. The author has filled herself with information about ants until it fairly bubbles over in a breezy, effervescent, highly popular but essentially accurate book that will be seized upon by children (and their elders) as eagerly as a morsel of sugar is grabbed by an ant.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Nature Study

NATURE RAMBLES: SPRING—O. P. Medsger—*Warne*, 160 p., \$2. Easy-going, informal, chatty essays on flowers and fungi, beasts and birds and insects, taken in the order you happen upon them in the course of a country walk, and illustrated with side-lights out of the author's own experiences, told unobtrusively in the first person.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

General Science

THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM AND ITS ACTIVITIES—Reprinted from *New York State Education*. A number of separate articles collected into a brochure giving a comprehensive view of one of the country's leading state museums.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931

Geology

THE SURFACE-HISTORY OF THE EARTH—John Joly—*Oxford Press*, 211 p., \$3.50. A second edition of an important thesis on the dynamic history of the earth's surface features, presented by a geologist who can successfully combine geophysical formulae with a highly readable literary style. The usability of the book is damaged by the lack of an index—a common fault which is to be lamented.

Science News Letter, June 20, 1931