

# • First Glances at New Books

## Scientific Method

**HUMANISTIC LOGIC**—Oliver L. Reiser—*Crowell*, 326 p., \$3.00. People who never thought of reading a book on logic before will find themselves reading this book like a novel. Prof. Reiser proceeds on the assumption that logic is an activity pursued by living human beings who have other things on their minds besides the spinning of metaphysical spider-webs. Scientists who have recently discovered an interest in logic will read the book with great interest. Part 2, "Logic and the Sciences" and Part 4, "How New Knowledge is Obtained" are particularly timely and show Prof. Reiser's unusual insight into these matters.

*Science News Letter, July 18, 1931*

## Aviation

**WINGS OF TOMORROW, THE STORY OF THE AUTOGIRO**—Juan de la Cierva and Don Rose—*Brewer, Warren and Putnam*, 300 p., \$2.50. The inventor of the "windmill plane" traces the development of his idea from his school days in Spain when he built gliders, to the present. An exceedingly interesting record of a craft which will be increasingly used.

*Science News Letter, July 18, 1931*

## Ornithology

**WHY BIRDS SING**—Jacques Delamain—*Coward McCann*, 298 p., \$2.50. Here is a book that combines good popular natural history with the Gallic literary style at its best—a combination with which the English-reading public has already been made familiar in translations of Fabre and Maeterlinck. Crowned by the French Academy in the original, the book has been very adequately done into English by Ruth and Anna Sarason.

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## Engineering

**CONCRETE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**—Walter Loring Webb and W. Herbert Gibson—*American Technical Society*, 374 p., \$2.50. A book that tells engineers and students how to use a substance which in a comparatively short time has become one of the most useful building materials.

*Science News Letter, July 18, 1931*

## Aeronautics

**THE BOOK OF GLIDERS**—Edwin Way Teale—*Dutton*, 379 p., \$2.50. As a man who has built and flown gliders, the author describes "the thrill of drift-

ing noiselessly through the air, rising and descending upon the varying wind currents". Ancient as well as modern types of craft are pictured, and the stories of famous soaring flights related. Practical information on how to build gliders, organize glider clubs, etc., is included in the latter part of the book.

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## Entomology

**THE ROMANCE OF THE HIVE**—F. C. Pellett—*Abingdon Press*, 203 p., \$2. A chattily written, informative popular book about bees and bee-keeping.

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## Physiology

**AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN EXPERIMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY**—F. W. Lamb and A. V. Hill—*Longmans, Green*, 335 p., \$4. A textbook for students of medicine and of general science which is the result of ten years' research into the best and most effective method of introducing them to this important subject. The method is that of having the students observe on themselves the physiological processes which they will later observe on their patients or their experimental subjects. The book gives directions for each student to examine his own blood, to observe the workings of his own or his neighbor's heart, digestive apparatus, etc. References to the literature are given at the end of each chapter.

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## Paleontology

**HANDBOOK OF PALEONTOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS AND AMATEURS. PART 2: THE FORMATIONS**—Winifred Goldring—*N. Y. State University*, 488 p., \$1.25. This completes a very worthwhile work, the first part of which, dealing with the fossils, appeared a short time ago. Like its companion volume, this book is clearly written and cleanly illustrated, and is admirably fitted for its purpose.

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## Aeronautics

**CRUISERS OF THE AIR**—C. J. Hylander—*Macmillan*, 308 p., \$2.50. The story of lighter-than-air craft, from the days of Roger Bacon to the making of the ZRS-4, illustrated with many photographs, and with drawings and diagrams by the author. Originally written for boys, this book is an intensely interesting history of airships, and will find an equally appreciative audience among adults.

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## National Parks

**RAINBOW CANYONS**—E. T. Scoyen and F. J. Taylor—*Stanford University Press*, 105 p., \$2. The Canyon of the Colorado is properly called "grand"; and "beautiful" is the right adjective for the Canyon of the Yellowstone. In between, down in southern Utah, there are several others, more recently made accessible to National Parks travellers, most notably Bryce and Zion canyons. For these, "gorgeous" would seem the just word. In this book there are gathered for the first time adequate descriptions of the scenery (insofar as any description thereof can be adequate), notes on natural history and compact historical accounts, together with some first-class photographic illustrations. The author-team is qualified to speak for these parks: Mr. Scoyen was their first permanent superintendent, and Mr. Taylor is a writer of long experience with national park subjects.

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## Physics

**THE NATURE OF A GAS**—L. B. Loeb—*Wiley*, 153 p., \$2.50. This volume is the first of a series of monographs to be published under the auspices of the Committee on Electrical Insulation of the National Research Council. A knowledge of the newer views of gas behavior admirably outlined here by Prof. Loeb, is necessary in understanding the wide variety of uses which gases now find as insulators.

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## Plant Physiology

**PLANT PHYSIOLOGY**—Edwin C. Miller—*McGraw-Hill*, 900 p., \$7. A few years ago professors of plant physiology complained, and justifiably, of a dearth of good textbooks to place in the hands of their advanced undergraduates and beginning graduate students. This lack has been notably supplied; yet the present volume will surely make a place for itself, because it is well-written and well-arranged and because it has caught up with the literature to within a few months before its publication date—an important thing with a constantly-advancing discipline like plant physiology. The teaching physiologist will welcome especially the review questions and the generous bibliography appended to each chapter.

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