

• First Glances at New Books

General Science

AN OUTLINE OF THE UNIVERSE—J. G. Crowther—*Dodd, Mead*, 376 p., \$3.50. The Universe is a rather large order to crowd into less than 400 ordinary book pages; yet the author succeeds at least in sketching the major outlines in satisfactory fashion. Approximately the first half of the book is given over to cosmology and the physical sciences; these pass *via* organic chemistry into the life sciences; and the latter conclude with a brief section on the development of civilization.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

General Science

READINGS IN SCIENCE—Edited by George W. Hunter and Robert C. Whitford—*Macmillan*, 283 p., 60c. An assortment of compellingly-written chapters in various fields of science, from the writings of men who both knew and could tell what they knew. There are two contributions each from Darwin, Huxley and Slosson; one each from Newcomb, Smalley, Vallery-Radot, Stefansson, Thomson, James, Shipley, Beebe, Muir, Sharp, Thoreau and Gilbert White. Designed for school use, this series is sure to overleap this corral and travel about in the pockets (it admirably fits a pocket) of a great many persons who are through with school but not through with learning.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Archaeology

REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT JEMDET NASR, IRAQ—Ernest Mackay—*Field Museum*, 84 p., 18 pl., \$2. Painted pottery and other objects dug up at this site near ancient Kish by the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition of 1925-1926 are described in this report. A preface by Prof. Langdon tells briefly of the two weeks' excavations at Jemdet Nasr in 1928, which have added new information, somewhat modifying Mr. Mackay's conclusions as to the age of the pottery and the identity of the people who occupied the site.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

General Science

DOCTORATES CONFERRED IN THE SCIENCES BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, 1930-1931—Compiled by Callie Hull and Clarence J. West—*National Research Council*, 55 p., 50c. This, the twelfth annual compilation of the kind which the Research Information Service of the National Research Council has

made, shows how the number of doctorates granted by American universities has grown from 330 in 1919-1920 to 1,147 in 1930-1931.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Forestry

TROPICAL FORESTS OF THE CARIBBEAN—Tom Gill—*Tropical Plant Research Foundation*, 318 p., \$5. The forests of the East are about gone, those of the South are badly depleted, those of the Pacific Northwest will some day follow. What then? Reforestation of our domestic woodland areas does not promise replacement fast enough to meet the increasing appetite of Americans for wood. There remain the tropics, with their millions of acres of virgin timber, and the most accessible, both geographically and economically, are those of the Caribbean region. Mr. Gill performs a distinct service to both lumberman and forest conservationist in this pioneer book on the next new frontier of forests.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Physics

TELEVISION: ITS METHODS AND USES—Edgar H. Felix—*McGraw-Hill*, 272 p., \$2.50. Television, younger sister of radio, seems to hover perpetually on the threshold but never quite "comes out." In this book Mr. Felix, who knows radio, tells of strivings and achievements in television up to the present; tells also of difficulties and problems, both scientific and economic, that must be overcome; takes a glimpse into the probable future.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Ornithology-Anthropology

THE DOMESTICATION OF THE CORMORANT IN CHINA AND JAPAN—Berthold Laufer—*Field Museum*, 59 p., 3 pl., 75c. A brief account, going back into the remotest available historical records, of the interesting Oriental art of cormorant-fishing.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Engineering

INTERNAL-COMBUSTION ENGINES—Howard E. Degler—*American Technical Society*, 159 p., \$2. An elementary, practical treatise, well illustrated with both diagrammatic sketches and photographs of actual engines. Considerable attention is given the Diesel engine both as a prime mover for small power plants and as an aircraft motor.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Biology

LIFE: OUTLINES OF GENERAL BIOLOGY—J. Arthur Thomson and Patrick Geddes—*Harpers*, 1515 p. (2 vols.), \$15. Here is the comprehensive outline of the science of life for which we really have been waiting. The names of the authors command not merely popular interest but also profound respect among their fellow-biologists; their account is carefully and readably written, it is complete, it is up to date; anything flashy or slipshod simply could not come from Thomson and Geddes. It is not pretended that these crowded volumes are for indolent or immature readers; yet one need not bring to them anything more than alertness and intelligence, and a willingness to pay attention. You need not be a biologist to enter this book, but if you go through it (not too rapidly) you can be a pretty good one when you come out.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Entomology

WONDERS OF THE ANT WORLD—Hans Heinz Ewers—*Dodd, Mead*, 233 p., \$2.50. A second edition of an interesting popular book on what are perhaps the most interesting of all insects, this time edited with special thought for its use by young readers.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Economic Botany

IMPORTANT WESTERN BROWSE PLANTS—William A. Dayton—*Government Printing Office*, 214 p., 45c. A well-illustrated brochure of interest alike to practical stockman, range-land administrator and professional botanist. Even the casual tourist through the West would do well to send to Washington for a copy, for it will tell him interesting things about a lot of the bushes among which he camps.

Science News Letter, September 26, 1931

Medical Economics

PAYING YOUR SICKNESS BILLS—Michael M. Davis—*University of Chicago Press*, 276 p., \$2.50. All aspects of this universally interesting subject are discussed in a sane and unbiased way. The author is a physician who understands the patient's viewpoint thoroughly and who is also versed in economics. Distribution of sickness costs through group insurance is his suggestion for solving the individual's problem of paying for adequate medical care.

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