

# • First Glances at New Books

## Psychology

CONDITIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN VARIABILITY—Raymond Dodge—*Yale University Press*, 162 p., \$2.50. To quote the author's preface. "I am primarily an experimentalist with a bias toward exploration. But it probably serves both exploration and experiment occasionally to gather the scattered fragments of one's work into coherent form and to discuss their implications. The consequences in this case are some seemingly important conclusions concerning the significance of variability in mental development and in the integration called consciousness." Such an integration of the researches of a man who has been doing significant work for thirty-five years or more makes a really worthwhile book.

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## Seismology

LIST OF SEISMOLOGICAL STATIONS OF THE WORLD—Compiled by H. E. McComb and Clarence J. West—*National Research Council*, 119 p., \$1.50. This second edition of the list of seismological stations fills an increasingly felt want, for the first edition has for some time been both out of print and out of date. Stations are listed alphabetically by geographical location; information about each includes exact address, official in charge of station and other personnel, geographical coordinates and other physical data, instruments with their installation dates, supporting institutions and station publications.

*Science News Letter, November 7, 1931*

## Geography

OUR WORLD TODAY—De Forest Stull and Roy W. Hatch—*Allyn and Bacon*, 721 p., \$2. School children who bring this book with them for home work may find themselves forced to fight their elders for its possession. They will certainly be told, "We didn't have geographies like that when we were in school!" The authors are to be congratulated on their success in making their science so much alive.

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## Horticulture

ADVENTURES IN A SUBURBAN GARDEN—Louise Beebe Wilder—*Macmillan*, 250 p., \$3.50. Of the making of gardens there should be no end; and the time to make gardens is now, when the ground is bare and one need be less concerned about pulling or digging

things up. Then everything but the planting will be finished before spring. Wherefore good books on gardening should be read in autumn and winter, and the appearance of this worthy addition to the very extensive Macmillan literature in horticulture is timely.

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## Astronomy

TEXT-BOOK ON SPHERICAL ASTRONOMY—S. M. Smart—*Macmillan*, 414 p., \$7. Astronomy has had so much attention focused lately on its awe-inspiring features—nebulae millions of light-years away, stars with temperatures Dante never dreamed of—that one almost forgets it is also a very sober, workaday science, that tells sailors where they are and landsmen what time it is. Basic to all this is the astronomy of position, and it is for the training of the patient and precise observers who will do this work that the present text has been designed.

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## Sociology

THE FAMILY—F. Müller-Lyer—*Knopf*, 406 p., \$5. A translation by F. W. Stella Browne from the German "Die Familie" originally published in Munich in 1912. Dr. Müller-Lyer discusses the evolution of the family from prehistoric times.

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## Chemistry

LABORATORY EXERCISES AND PROBLEMS IN GENERAL CHEMISTRY—B. Smith Hopkins and Harvey A. Neville—*Heath*, 164 p., \$1.76. A concise and complete laboratory manual for the college general chemistry class including an introduction to qualitative analysis and a section on chemical arithmetic.

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## Child Study

THE INFANT WELFARE MOVEMENT IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY—Ernest Caulfield—*Hoeber*, 203 p., \$2. These were the days when it was commonplace for unwanted babies to be exposed in the streets to die, and when the infant death rate in London was said to be 75 per cent. of the population, but the eighteenth century also marked the beginnings of that interest in child welfare which has taken such enormous strides in recent years. The author gives an interesting description of both the ignorances and the progress of that time.

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## Geology

THE AGE OF THE EARTH—*National Research Council*, (Bulletin No. 80) 487 p., \$4.50. This is the fourth volume of a series on the physics of the earth, this one being prepared by a committee consisting of Prof. Adolf Knopf, Chairman, Prof. E. W. Brown, Prof. Arthur Holmes, Prof. A. F. Kovarik, Prof. A. C. Lane and Prof. Charles Schuchert. Most of the evidence presented is from radioactivity, though there are short sections on estimates based on sediments, the salinity of the ocean and astronomical data. That two thousand million years have elapsed since the formation of the earth's crust is the outcome of the present study.

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## Physics

THE COMMUTATOR MOTOR—F. J. Teago—*Dutton*, 80 p., \$1.10. A brief, technical review of the commutator motor with a good bibliography to spur further reading. The text is one of a series of monographs on physical subjects edited by Dr. B. L. Worsnop, King's College, London.

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## Archaeology

MEDINET HABU REPORTS: I, The Epigraphic Survey 1928-31—Harold H. Nelson; II, The Architectural Survey 1929-30—Uvo Holscher—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 69 p., \$1. The second volume of plates of the reliefs and inscriptions at Medinet Habu is now in press. It is the material of this new series which Mr. Nelson describes in this illustrated report on the epigraphic survey's work. The architectural survey reports on its excavations in the Roman and Coptic town layers and also in the old Ramessid stratum. The plan and successive changes in the Small Temple, which have been given special attention, provide an enlightening picture of Egyptian temple building from the eighteenth dynasty to the Coptic period.

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## Acoustics

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ACOUSTICS OF BUILDINGS—F. R. Watson—*National Research Council*, 43 p., 50c. This pamphlet, collecting into one place references to a very much scattered literature, will be of great use to engineers and architects.

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