

tion. The national parks of America and the great temple groves of China were indicated as already existing examples.

Finally, science must contribute its share toward answering the difficult question of what things, both in the material world and in the domain of social relations, must be adhered to as that which is good, and therefore to be defended against tendencies of change, and what things are legitimately subject to further evolution, whether through the ordinary processes of nature or through the hastening aid of man.

Science News Letter, March 10, 1934

ETHNOLOGY

White Man Smokes Often, Red Man Smokes Hard

THE WHITE MAN'S way of smoking is funny, as California Indians look at it. No sense to it, in fact.

When a California Indian smokes his wild tobacco, he takes it in one knock-out dose.

The Indian smoker puts the "makings" into a hollow elder stick about eight inches long, from which the pith has been removed. Then he inhales a few long whiffs. A few are just enough to make him so dizzy that he cannot stand on his feet. When he can see straight again, he puts away the pipe and tobacco until tomorrow. He has had his smoke for the day.

Describing this procedure, which he has observed and discussed with the Indians, John P. Harrington of the Smithsonian Institution says that the Indian looks upon the white man's smoking all day as absurd, with no justification in common sense or tradition. When Mr. Harrington asked the Indians why their way of smoking was better, they gave the good old Indian answer, that their ancestors had always done it that way.

Physiologists have been working hard to explain why modern smokers do smoke through the day. Yale physiologists very recently reported that the sugar in the blood temporarily increases by the smoking process. That seems to promote a feeling of bodily wellbeing.

When they get round to it, the physiologists might look into the effect of the red man's heroic inhalation of tobacco. Perhaps there is some unknown physiological reason why the Indian smokers prefer their tobacco hard and straight.

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• First Glances at New Books

Archaeology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS FROM MEXICO CITY—R. H. K. Maret—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 117 p., \$1. To visit Mexico City and not see and understand something of its prehistoric side is like visiting Athens and ignoring its antiquities. This pocket guide is excellently adapted to the tourist's needs. It is not only logically arranged, and supplemented by illustrations and directions for going and coming, but it has an attractive manner of telling about the ruins and the ancient Aztecs, Toltecs, and Archaics, who built them and lived in them.

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Education

THE EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION ON EDUCATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES—James F. Abel—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 37 p., 5c. Now that the support of schools has become such an acute problem in the United States, this view of matters in foreign lands is of great value.

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Philosophy

REALITY AND ILLUSION—Richard Rothschild—*Harcourt, Brace*, 432 p., \$3.50. A substantial addition to the philosophical literature of challenge that has followed the disillusionment of the War, with its battering away of the clay feet of the mechanistic idol behind which man's self-worship of a half-century ago naively hid itself. The scientist may not accept the author's thesis; nevertheless it puts him on his mettle to prove his own, instead of calmly assuming it to be an axiom, and to prove further that science performs in a world of human meanings, not in a vacuum.

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Chemistry

A TEXT-BOOK OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY—J. R. Partington—*Macmillan*, 1062 p., \$4.25. The fourth edition of a comprehensive and detailed text for university use written by a University of London professor.

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Medicine

OBSERVATIONS OF A GENERAL PRACTITIONER—William N. Macartney—*Badger*, 478 p., \$3. Here is an informally written book for the general practitioner, particularly the young man entering general practice. The author is himself a country doctor. His book is a blend of philosophical comments and practical advice on the treatment of various diseases and the practice of medicine in general.

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Geography

SIXTH REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD, 1890 TO 1932—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 834 p., 80c. If you want to know whether to write Pittsburgh or Pittsburg, and what is the officially correct name of some lake or mountain called by several names, this report may supply the answer. It contains practically all the decisions of the geographic board for the period named in the title, and these are arranged in dictionary form, hundreds of pages of them. The geographic nomenclature of the Eastern Hemisphere has changed so greatly since 1914 that the board has drawn up a new list of some 2,500 of the more important names and has included them in this reference work.

Science News Letter, March 10, 1934

Botany

FLORA OF THE KARTABO REGION, BRITISH GUIANA—Edward H. Graham *Carnegie Museum (Pittsburgh)*, 275+xxiv p., 18 pl., \$2.50.

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Psychology

RESISTANT BEHAVIOR OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN—Ruth Kennedy Caille—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.*, 142 p., \$1.50. One cannot predict from a child's resistance in one situation what his degree of resistance will be in another situation. Neither is it possible to divide children into types: resistant and non-resistant or aggressive and non-aggressive.

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