

● First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
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Paleontology

THE DINOSAURS—W. E. Swinton—*Thomas Murby, London*, 233 p., 25 pl., 15s. The English-reading world has long been waiting for just this book: a connected account of the monster reptiles that dominated the world in the Middle Ages of geologic history, smoothly written so that one likes to go on reading, not too technical yet furnishing plenty of exact information excellently illustrated with abundant plates and text cuts of both bones and restoration sculptures and drawings. An especially useful appendix is one listing all dinosaurs in British museums; it is to be hoped that in a subsequent edition the author's ambition may extend to a census of the entire dinosaur world.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Science Teaching

SCIENCE TEACHING—George W. Hunter—*American Book Co.*, 552 p., \$2.50. Veteran teacher of biology for many years, and now lecturer in methods of education in science at Claremont Colleges, Dr. Hunter is well qualified to give advice and help to the science teacher whose career is just beginning. His knowledge of all the theoretic angles of attack on that stubborn fortress, the student's attention, is given a practical biting point by his long experience on the firing line.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Historical Geography

AN ATLAS OF CURRENT AFFAIRS—J. F. Horrabin—*Alfred A. Knopf*, 149 p., \$1.50. Ready reference book on geographical places with emphasis on economic importance of locality. Clear maps allow one to follow geographically the course of world politics, war, revolution or other matters appearing everyday in the newspapers. Supplies background information on what, where and why is Valona in Albania or Tabriz in Persia and their counterparts throughout the world.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Zoology

TOADS AND TOAD LIFE—Jean Rosstand—*Methuen and Co., London*, 192 p., 7s. 6d. Translated from the original French by Joan Fletcher, this book tells in considerable detail but with compelling interest the story of the whole life of the toad. Although the species discussed is European, it belongs to the same genus, *Bufo*, as the most common

American toad, so that the account holds good, in the main, on this side of the Atlantic also. The discussion is complete enough to make the book valuable to teachers and students of zoology, popular enough to make it attractive to the general reader with an interest in nature.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Comparative Anatomy

EARLY FORERUNNERS OF MAN—W. E. Le Gros Clark—*William Wood*, 296 p., \$5.00. One of the most prominent of British anatomists here makes an intensive examination of the morphology of the lower primates, with the aim of developing a tenable phylogeny for the higher members of the order, including man. He neglects nothing; minutiae of structure and position of even such details as the ossicles of the inner ear and the papillae of the tongue are critically examined and evaluated. His final phylogenetic tree stems on a tarsioid trunk, branching into Gibbon, Orang, Chimpanzee-Gorilla and Homo at about the point marked by the twig *Propliopithecus*.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Natural History

THE NATURALIST ON THE PROWL—Frances Pitt—*Macmillan*, 137 p., \$2. An enthusiastic Englishwoman, who knows how to sit quiet while she watches birds and shy animals, and can take strikingly good photographs of them, and finally has command of an easy, smooth-flowing style when she comes to write about them, here tells of her adventures afield. She gives also some useful suggestions to those who would go out to see and snapshot for themselves.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Engineering

THE PRINCIPLES OF HEATING AND VENTILATION—H. M. Vernon—*Longmans, Green*, 232 p., \$5.00. Excellent British discussion of the theories behind current heating and ventilating practice illustrated, as needed, by examples from engineering procedure in the field.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Biology

HORMONES ET VITAMINES, UN ASPECT DU PROBLÈME DES QUANTITÉS INFINITÉSIMALES EN BIOLOGIE—Z. M. Bacq—*Hermann et Cie., Paris*, 29 p., 8 francs.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Population

THE TWILIGHT OF PARENTHOOD—Enid Charles—*Norton*, 226 p., \$2.50. Malthusian "nightmares of population" are here replaced by a glimpse of a future world in which peoples are reduced in number at a rate unbelievable today. If the present low net reproduction rate in England continues to decline, Dr. Charles foresees a population soon halving itself with each succeeding generation. Causes are discussed and remedies suggested.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Unnatural History

THE CASE FOR THE SEA-SERPENT—R. T. Gould—*Putnam*, 291 p., \$2.50. This book produces an abundance of quite convincing evidence, if not for the actual existence of sea-serpents, then at least in support of the ancient saying, "They that go down to the sea in ships . . . they shall behold strange wonders." The author, a retired Lieutenant-Commander in His Majesty's Navy, has brought together, literally out of all the seven seas, detailed accounts of monsters seen and believed in by sailors (and possibly by the Marines, too). He inclines to the opinion that the sea serpent may be a creature more or less resembling a plesiosaur.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Biology

LA CELLULE GERMINALE DANS LE DYNAMISME DE L'ONTOGENÈSE—Vera Dantchakoff—*Hermann et Cie., Paris*, 87 p., 18 francs.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Science

THIS CHANGING WORLD—S. R. Powers, Elsie F. Neuner, and H. B. Bruner—*Ginn*, 561 p., \$1.40. Science textbook for students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Biology

LIVING THINGS—Walling Corwin and Mae Johnson Corwin—*Blakiston's*, 681 p., \$1.68. A text in general biology, designed for high school use.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Mineralogy

FIELD TEST FOR THE COMMON METALS—George R. Fansett—*Ariz. Bur. Mines*, 56 p. Free. Sixth edition of a bulletin that is used as a text in the bureau's extension lectures on prospector's mineralogy.

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Ethnology—Exploration

WHITE INDIANS OF DARIEN—Richard O. Marsh—*Putnam*, 276 p., \$3. Unknown Panama is the scene of this highly interesting adventure narrative. East of the familiar Canal Zone, in the hidden interior of Darien, Mr. Marsh and his associates found an unknown valley, and among the San Blas Indians several hundred white Indians with golden hair and eyes "green to brown." Because of their scientific importance, and in the hope of arousing sympathy for the San Blas Indians in their serious troubles with the Panamanian government, Mr. Marsh brought three white Indian children back to the United States, where the "battle of the scientists" to account for white Indians began. The book closes with a plea for active continued American supervision over the Darien Indian situation, since the treaty signed by Panamanians and Indians is not, he declares, being lived up to by Panama.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Botany

ECONOMIC PLANTS—Ernest Elwood Stanford—*Appleton-Century*, 571 p., \$4.50. Woods, textiles, gums and resins, food, drugs, all plant products that civilized man draws on for his multiplied needs, are here passed in rapid review.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Scientific Fiction

BEFORE THE DAWN—John Taine—*Williams and Wilkins*, 247 p., \$2. A tale of the discovery by engineers of a method whereby light-records stored in such things as calcite crystals, fossil footprints and petrified plant remains can be unravelled as television pictures of millions of years ago. Paleontologists use the device to obtain a first-hand view of events in the last days of the dinosaurs, and in particular of the life, deeds and death of a favorite carnivorous saurian named Belshazzar. Dramatic, crowded with swift scenes of wild wonders, adventure and thundering big fights, this book will be fascinating to boys of from fifteen years up to about six times that age.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Ichthyology

TROPICAL FISH AND THEIR CARE—Norbert Lederer—*Knopf*, 229 p., \$2.50. Whether you are just beginning to think of getting your first pair of guppies, or are a seasoned veteran of

ichthyoculture with the whole house littered with aquaria full of swimming bits of rainbow, this book will be of use. It tells what equipment to get, how to tend your fish in health and in sickness, and finally gives terse, well-illustrated descriptions of all the better known and many of the less known varieties.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Cosmetics

MODERN COSMETICS—Francis Chilson—*Drug and Cosmetic Industry*, 396 p., \$6. People of both sexes are paying much more attention to their appearance than they used to, so that mention of cosmetics is no longer merely a standard stock joke at the expense of feminine vanity. The industry has become an important one from the economic angle alone, and beauty shops begin to outnumber barber shops. For these reasons such a book as Mr. Chilson's is timely, giving as it does standard formulae for the preparation of all kinds of toilet aids and discussing details of their handling and use.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Geophysics

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION, FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, 1934—*National Research Council*, 2 v., 633 p., \$2.75. Bound copies of the papers read before the recent meeting of the AGU held in Washington and Berkeley.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Archaeology

NEW LIGHT ON THE MOST ANCIENT EAST—V. Gordon Childe—*Appleton-Century*, 327 p., 32 pl., \$4.00. Most readers are aware that European civilization must trace its most important beginnings to discoveries and inventions in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and other regions of the Near East. What progress Orientalists have made in tracing these beginnings is not so generally understood, since discoveries, constantly occurring, constantly tend to broaden and change the picture. The significance of recent discoveries is expertly explained in this book for those who are not Orientalists.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Agriculture

RESHAPING AGRICULTURE—O. W. Willcox—*Norton*, 157 p., \$2. The author advances the thesis—and brings up impressive-looking battalions of figures to support it—that we are on the threshold of an Agricultural Revolution as great or greater than the Industrial Revolution that overturned the world during the nineteenth century. A fraction of the land could even now support all the people, he declares, if the best techniques and crop varieties available were intelligently used; and the end is nowhere in sight. He sees the Malthusian ghost banished into an infinitely remote exterior darkness, an abundance economy thrusting aside the present artificial price-and-profit-based scarcity economy, and an inevitable thorough-going State regimentation of agriculture.

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Aesthetics—Ethnology

MELANESIAN DESIGN, 2 vols.—Gladys A. Reichard—*Columbia University Press*, 172 p., 151 pl., 75 figs., \$10. An analysis of art styles used by Melanesians on wood and tortoiseshell objects, which they carve with designs of great complexity and variety and often with striking beauty. The study is primarily aesthetic, rather than ethnological. Dr. Reichard states: "The rewards of objective analyses are inherent in art itself. They consist in formulating the principles underlying the art style; the definition of elements, their combination into an organic whole; attitudes toward zones and fields, toward filling of spaces; preference for regularity, symmetry, or asymmetry, or rhythmic repetition."

Science News Letter, September 8, 1934

Geology

GEOLOGIC STRUCTURES—Bailey Willis and Robin Willis—*McGraw-Hill*, 544 p., \$4. Third edition of one of the best known and most complete texts on dynamic and structural geology. The detail and completeness with which earth-changing forces and their effects are presented are most impressive.

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