

# ● First Glances at New Books

## Education—Ethnology

EDUCATION OF PRIMITIVE PEOPLE—Albert D. Helser—*Revell*, 316 p., \$3. Of unusual interest for educators is this book by a man who has worked out a practical and effective program for teaching a primitive people. In his Mission School in Nigeria we find the project method, so popular now among educators, applied to the teaching of lessons on health, agriculture, home life, and good clan citizenship in Africa. Dr. Helser objects to uprooting local culture, and replacing it with something strange and new. He aims, rather, to build on the familiar patterns of life to make an educated native. His methods of teaching African school children offer many ideas adaptable in teaching other young primitives, or even the children of civilization.

*Science News Letter, September 15, 1934*

## Photography

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY, 1934-35—C. Geoffrey Holme, ed.—*Studio Publications*, 32 p., 96 plates, cloth, \$3.50; paper, \$2.50. Again comes a selection of the best photographs of a year's crop all over the world: babies and puppies, nudes and gnarled old men, machines, city streets, waterfalls, trees—the thousand subjects under a score of treatments that keeps always new one's wonder at the sensitive, flexible instrument of expression which the modern photographic camera has become.

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## Genetics

GÉNÉTIQUE ET ÉVOLUTION, ANALYSE DE QUELQUES ÉTUDES MATHÉMATIQUES SUR LA SÉLECTION NATURELLE—Ph. L'Héritier—*Hermann et Cie.*, Paris, 43 p., 14 francs.

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## Forestry

IDENTIFICATION OF THE COMMERCIAL TIMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES—Harry P. Brown and Alexis J. Panshin—*McGraw-Hill*, 223 p., \$3.00. This is distinctly a practical book as well as a student's book, for its identifications are based not primarily on compound-microscope determinations of minutiae but on things you can see with the naked eye or at most with a hand lens. The minute characters do receive their proper consideration, however, and are shown up in a wealth of beautifully reproduced photomicrographs.

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## Medicine

DISEASE PECULIAR TO CIVILIZED MAN—George Crile—*Macmillan*, 427 p., \$5.00. Dr. Crile here presents the thesis that certain diseases, such as diabetes, peptic ulcer and epilepsy, are related diseases and result from the tension of highly civilized life, which causes a disturbance of the glandular and autonomic nervous system, particularly the adrenal glands.

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## Zoology

MANUAL OF THE VERTEBRATE ANIMALS OF NORTHEASTERN AND CENTRAL CHINA—Cora D. Reeves—*Chung Hua Book Co.*, Shanghai, 806 p., \$4.50, plus postage. This book represents a most admirable pioneer effort to make available a systematically arranged, "keyed" description of all the vertebrates, save birds, of a highly important faunal area where nothing whatever of this kind has ever been done before. The author states that in the compilation she has gathered material "which was first published two hundred or more years ago or less than a month ago," and in half-a-dozen European languages. It should be a godsend to struggling teachers in Chinese schools, and highly useful as well to people "outside" who have Chinese zoological material to puzzle over. Cleanly printed and well bound, the book is a credit also to the Chinese publishing industry.

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## Archaeology—Ethnology

INDIAN LIFE OF LONG AGO IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK—Reginald Pelham Bolton—*Joseph Grabam*, 167 p., 31 pl., \$4. This sort of book might well be written about the Indians in various parts of the country, so that school children, teachers, and other local inhabitants might know more about the Indian people who once lived in their neighborhood. Mr. Bolton has studied Indians of New York for more than thirty years, and he writes simply and informatively. His drawings of Indian weapons, houses, and other subjects are a fine feature of the book.

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## History—Geography

THE EXPLORATION OF WESTERN AMERICA, 1800-1850—E. W. Gilbert—*Macmillan*, 233 p., \$3.75. Relates in considerable detail, drawing freely on original accounts, the stories of the classic expeditions of Lewis and Clarke, of Pike, Frémont, "Jim" Bridger, and all the other heroic adventurers great and small who pushed into the West in the first years of the nineteenth century, when it was as unknown as the interior of Borneo is today, and as dangerous to enter.

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## Agriculture

CHANGE IN THE FARM—T. Hennell—*Macmillan*, 201 p., \$3.75.—The author reconstructs vividly and with realistic detail farm life as it used to be lived in England only a couple of generations ago, before the coming of modern machinery, and before the competition of new lands overseas had driven much of the less productive English land back into grass. Even while one pities in retrospect the endless aching muscles that must have gone with scythe and flail and all the other implements of the old hand labor, one perforce admires the ingenuity and simplicity with which that generation of farmers faced and solved their problems with only the most elementary material resources.

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## Radio

REPORT OF RADIO RESEARCH IN JAPAN, VOL. IV, NO. 1. *National Research Council of Japan, Tokyo*, 62 p.

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## Science

THE NEW WORLD OF SCIENCE—A. Frederick Collins—*Lippincott*, 308 p., \$2.50.—Book that tries to take the reader to the Century of Progress without spending the carfare. The author concentrates on the exhibits in the Hall of Science, principally the inventions. Much the same information can be obtained from the companies which manufacture the equipment exhibited.

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