

●First Glances at New Books

Arctic Exploration

TO THE NORTH—Jeannette Mirsky *Viking*, 386 p., \$3.75. Most people know scattered incidents of discovery and exploration in the Far North. Such names as Peary, Nansen, Andrée are familiar. But the entire story of the Arctic—2,000 years of man's struggle to find wealth, adventure, or a short cut from one side of the world to another—is a fascinating course in history somewhat overlooked in school curricula. This book is straight-forward enough and comprehensive enough to be "educational" and yet it manages to convey the adventurer's spirit to the fireside reader.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Sociology—Psychology

LEISURE, A SUBURBAN STUDY—George A. Lundberg—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 395 p., \$3.00. A study of how the people of Westchester County, New York, spend their leisure time. It was discovered that seven broad categories of activity account for 90 per cent of leisure time, and "the most important and common of these activities is the daily ceremonial of eating with its attendant sociability."

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Oceanography

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OCEANOGRAPHY OF THE PACIFIC—Thomas Wayland Vaughan, Chairman—*The University of Toronto Press*, 384 p. A reprint from the Proceedings of the Fifth Pacific Science Congress, 1933.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

General Science

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE—*Pub. by the Museum*. Free.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Ornithology

BIRDS OF THE CHICAGO REGION—E. R. Ford, C. C. Sanborn and C. B. Coursen—*Chicago Academy of Sciences*, 80 p., 50c. Concise descriptions of birds of a specific area, but without question applicable to a much larger territory than it professes to cover.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Chemistry

PRACTICAL EVERYDAY CHEMISTRY—H. Bennett—*Chemical Pub. Co.*, 305 p., \$2. Avoiding chemical theory as a

scourge is this volume on how to make what you use. One can run the gamut from how to make a flexible bookbinding glue to the preparation of homemade Easter egg dyes. The formulae of hundreds of everyday compounds are listed. The smalltime dabbler in chemical industry may be appalled at some of the recipes given. Neutral cleansing cream, for example, calls for 80 pounds of mineral oils, 90 pounds of glycerin, ten pounds of perfume, and other ingredients: in all, 234 pounds.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Physics

THE DIFFRACTION OF LIGHT, X-RAYS, AND MATERIAL PARTICLES—Charles F. Meyer—*University of Chicago*, 473 p., \$5.00. Textbook on one of the most important fields of optics intended for graduate students in physics and their professors who are looking for a novel and improved exposition of the subject. The linking of diffraction phenomena in X-rays and material particles with the classic work in the field of light has not before been available in one volume.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Physical Education and Hygiene

ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION—Jesse Feiring Williams and Clifford Lee Brownell—*W. B. Saunders*, 598 p., \$3. This book gives practical directions for coordinating and making effective physical education and health education in schools. The authors emphasize that it is not enough merely to teach physiological facts and athletic skills and to discover and remedy physical defects; the child should be taught, in addition, to like wholesome living and wholesome recreation.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Biology

ELEMENTS OF MODERN BIOLOGY—Charles R. Plunkett—*Holt*, 540 p., \$3. All the illustrations in this book are diagrams, and the text is diagrammatically clear and direct. It forms a useful addition to college teaching literature.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Dendro-Chronology

TREE RING BULLETIN, Vol. 1, No. 1—A. E. Douglass, editor—*Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff*, \$1.50 per year, 50c a copy. Tree rings would seem to be primarily a concern of botany or forestry, but under the enthusiastic and ingenious researches of Prof. Douglass and his school they have become very much a concern as well of such sciences as archaeology, astronomy, geology and climatology. To make researches in the study of tree rings available to such diverse groups with this common interest, a number of scientists in the Southwest have founded this modest journal, which for the present will appear quarterly.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Architecture

A PICTURE BOOK OF HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD—Otta Taggart Johnston—*Harter Pub. Co.*, 32 p., 10c plus postage. A book for children—not the youngest—describing very nicely in verse an Alpine chalet, a sod hut in Lapland, a French chateau, and several score other dwellings. The pictures are black and white photographic studies.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Electricity

DESIGN OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY—H. Cotton—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 479 p., \$9. Comprehensive and detailed treatment, based on lectures given by the professor of electrical engineering at University College, Nottingham, England.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1934

Mathematics

THE POETRY OF MATHEMATICS—David Eugene Smith—*Scripta Mathematica*, 91 p., cloth binding, 75c., paper binding, 50c. A compact collection of essays, non-mathematical in themselves but relating to subjects which mathematics suggests. Mathematics is shown not to be a cold, barren isolated subject, but a fine art whose concepts are interwoven with such widely different fields as science, religion and politics.

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