

# • First Glances at New Books

## EXPLORATION

ULTIMA THULE, Further Mysteries of the Arctic—Vilhjalmur Stefansson—*Macmillan*, 383 p., illus., \$3.50. Real mysteries as intriguing as any in fiction are set forth in this book. Where Greek Pytheas, once derided as “champion liar of antiquity”, went on his long northern voyage to Ultima Thule, and whether Columbus actually visited Iceland are debated pro and con by Prof. Stefansson, who summons the evidence thus far available for both sides.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## CONSERVATION

THIS IS OUR LAND, The Story of Conservation in the United States—E. G. Cheyney and T. Schantz-Hansen—*Webb Book Pub. Co.*, 337 p., illus., \$3. With books on conservation constantly multiplying, the feeling may grow this is becoming a too-oft-told tale. Yet so long as there is an eroded hillside, a polluted stream, a community impoverished by reckless misuse and waste of resources, the story has not been told often enough. This book brings new point and emphasis to the telling, with vividly written text balanced by striking illustrations and diagrams. Cartoon frontispiece and foreword are by “Ding” Darling.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION AND CITIZENSHIP — George T. Renner and William H. Hartley—*Heath*, 367 p., illus., \$1.60. A textbook, carefully prepared and excellently illustrated, on a subject that is attracting increasing attention nowadays as an integral part of education. Although intended for school use, it can be read with profit by parents as well as pupils.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## PSYCHOLOGY

THE PSYCHODYNAMICS OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR—J. F. Brown with collaboration of Karl A. Menninger—*McGraw-Hill*, 484 p., illus., \$3.50. See page 377.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## NUTRITION—HISTORY

THE AMERICAN AND HIS FOOD, a History of Food Habits in the United States—Richard Osborn Cummings—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 267 p., \$2.50. This is a different and most unusual book about food. It tells, as the title suggests, about the kind of meals Americans used to eat and why they eat such different

kinds today. The role of refrigerators, railroads, nutritionists, welfare workers, droughts, depressions and agricultural surpluses, in changing the eating habits of the nation is explained.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## PSYCHOLOGY

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES—Blanche C. Weill—*Island Workshop Press, New York City*, 365 p., \$1.75. A group of narratives—“true stories out of the practice of a consultant psychologist”—which should be helpful to parents puzzled about how to handle their children with wisdom.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## AERONAUTICS

AIRPORTS: Some Elements of Design and Future Development—John Walter Wood—*Coward McCann*, 364 p., 64 diagrams, 444 illus., \$12.50. Mr. Wood, an architect specializing in airport design, has produced in this elaborate and copiously illustrated work a book that will be of interest to the general reader interested in aviation as well as to those more directly and professionally concerned. Forty-eight airports, in and outside of the United States, are compared, with plans of each, pictures of their features and a full discussion of their faults and virtues.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

FLIGHTS OVER ANCIENT CITIES OF IRAN—E. F. Schmidt—*Univ. of Chicago*, 96 p., plates, \$20. See p. 378.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## ELECTRICITY

THE BOY ELECTRICIAN (Rev. ed.)—Alfred P. Morgan—*Lothrop, Lee & Shepard*, 403 p., illus., \$2.50. Full of “how to make it” directions, this should be an ideal Christmas gift for the electrically inclined youngster. Despite the title, girls also might be interested. Certainly they should be familiar with electricity since, when they grow up, they will have many contacts with electrical apparatus in the home.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

SCIENCE, A Story of Progress and Discovery (Rev. ed.)—Ira C. Davis and Richard W. Sharpe—*Holt*, 495 p., illus., \$1.72. A general science text for high schools in revised edition.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## BIOGRAPHY

MY BOYHOOD IN SIAM—Kumut Chandruang—*John Day Co.*, 226 p., \$2. A book of distinction, first, because the publishers express the belief that it is the first book about Siam written in English by a Siamese, but secondly, and more importantly, because it has literary charm and dramatic interest. Despite the title, which is the sort often given to juvenile travel books, this is a biography to hold adult attention. *It would make a good Christmas book.*

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## GEOGRAPHY

GREENLAND LIES NORTH—William S. Carlson; Illus. by Phyllis Wesley—*Macmillan*, 306 p., \$3. The lively flavor of this book about Greenland is suggested by chapter headings, for example: “Eskimo Ways and Means”, “Arctic Coal Mine”, “Week-Ending with Eskimos”, “Toughening Up”, and “Ramparts of the Ice Kingdom”. The author and a friend spent a winter at a frozen outpost of Greenland, in order to study winter air currents.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## ORNITHOLOGY

WINGS AT MY WINDOW—Ada Clapham Goven—*Macmillan*, 198 p., \$2.50. Besides being a fascinating story about taking care of bird neighbors and learning about them, this is also a great human-interest document: of a woman who found her way out of the Slough of Despond, conquering grief and physical disability, because a chickadee once sang to her in acknowledgment of a handful of crumbs to eat.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## GEOGRAPHY—JUVENILE

GOING PLACES — William Wolfson — *Coward-McCann*, illus., by author, \$1.50. Physical geography made truly simple and attractive for children aged about eight to eleven. The artist-author tells, as he told his own son, what life is like for eight boys in a cold place, a hot place, a high place, a dry place, and so on.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*

## BACTERIOLOGY

MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY MANUAL—Paul W. Allen and George M. Cameron—*Mosby*, 243 p., illus., \$2. Spiral-bound laboratory workbook, including prepared outline pages for sketches of colonies on slants and plates.

*Science News Letter, December 14, 1940*