

# •First Glances at New Books

## ZOOLOGY—EXPLORATION

**CHINA'S ANIMAL FRONTIER**—Clifford H. Pope—*Viking Press*, 192 p., illus., \$2.50. Something about the animals of interior China, but a great deal more about the people among whom this young American collector travelled and lived, and who brought him specimens—price subject to endless haggling with his Chinese assistant. Whether you are interested in animals or in human beings, you will find this book fascinating.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## MINERALOGY

**MINERALS OF MARYLAND**—Charles W. Ostrander and Walter E. Price, Jr.—*Natural History Society of Maryland*, 92 p., illus., 40c. Although only a pamphlet in size, this little work covers adequately the field it undertakes. It would be a fine thing if there could be a similar little book for every similar area in the Union.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## BOTANY—HISTORY

**PERFUMES AND SPICES**, Including an Account of Soaps and Cosmetics—A. Hyatt Verrill—*Page*, 304 p., illus., \$3. A book by a well-known popular author, in which plant lore and history are mingled in about equal proportions.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## MINERALOGY

**MINERAL IDENTIFICATION SIMPLIFIED**, A Handbook of the Minerals—Orsino C. Smith—*Wetzel Pub. Co.*, 271 p., \$3.50. A handbook for the professional mineralogist and the serious student. The first fourth of the book consists mainly of directions for making laboratory tests; the remainder, of identification tables.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## BIOGRAPHY

**JEFFERSON**—Albert Jay Nock—*Natl. Home Library Foundation*, 340 p., 75c. Among his many great accomplishments, the place of Jefferson in the beginnings of American science is apt to be overlooked. Here as a part of a readable account of the great Democrat's life and deeds is also the story of Jefferson as a pioneer in that field of human inquisitiveness that we call science.

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## BOTANY

**TEXTBOOK OF BOTANY**—E. N. Trauseau, H. C. Sampson and L. H. Tiffany—*Harper*, 812 p., illus., color plates, \$4.

A college textbook that is a refreshing departure from the conventional type. Emphasis on physiology and ecology helps the student to see plants as living, active things, and plant communities as kinetic entities whose existence has important contacts with his own life. No one completing a course built around this text will ever feel quite alone as he walks the woods: he will know he is surrounded by near neighbors.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

**SYMPOSIUM ON CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN CULTURE AND ITS PLACE IN GENERAL CULTURE**—*American Philosophical Society*, 73 p., 50c. (Proceedings, Vol. 83, No. 4.) What was said in the American Philosophical Society's historic hall in Philadelphia on April 19, 1940, when Frederick P. Keppel, Frederick Lewis Allen, Alfred V. Kidder, Lewis Mumford, Van Wyck Brooks, Francis H. Taylor, Otto Luening and Arthur H. Compton discussed what we call culture.

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## ENGINEERING—TECHNOLOGY

**RECORDS AND RESEARCH IN ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE**—J. Edwin Holmstrom—*Chapman & Hall, London*, 302 p., 15s. How to use the accumulated technical knowledge of the world is discussed in this book of British origin, which should be of value to anyone engaged in the production, extraction, integrating, storekeeping, circulation and translation of technical information.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**, for the year ending June 30, 1939—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 567 p., illus., \$1.50. As usual, in addition to the report of the activities of the Smithsonian Institution, as an appendix there are 27 significant articles presenting a cross-section of contemporary science.

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## TECHNOLOGY

**A. S. T. M. STANDARDS ON TEXTILE MATERIALS**, Specifications, Tolerances, Methods of Testing, Definitions and Terms, October, 1940—Prepared by Committee D-13 on Textile Materials—*Amer. Soc. for Testing Materials*, 368 p., \$2.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

**SCIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD**—Emmett James Cable, Robert Ward Getchell and William Henry Kadesch—*Prentice-Hall*, 666 p., illus., \$3.75. Physical sciences—machines, energy, matter, heat, weather, sound, light, electricity, chemistry, earthquakes and astronomy—are presented in considerable detail and with readable simplicity for those who are searching for information. This is a handy book to keep along side the dictionary.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

**HOAXES**—Curtis D. MacDougall—*Macmillan*, 336 p., illus., \$3.50. Fantastic stories that have fooled millions of people, are brought together to show the ignorance, indifference, prejudice, and general gullibility of human beings. Many of the 400 examples of hoaxes are within the realm of science or around its fringes. Required reading for potential skeptics.

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## LITERATURE

**A TREASURY OF THE WORLD'S GREAT LETTERS**—M. Lincoln Schuster—*Simon and Schuster*, 563 p., \$3.75. Among the famous letters reproduced are some in the field of science: Pierre Curie to Marie Sklodovska, Charles Darwin to A. R. Wallace, Michael Faraday to Sarah Barnard, Thomas Huxley to Charles Kingsley, Blaise Pascal to Perier, Henri Poincaré and Marie Curie to Zurich Institute, Joseph Priestley to His Neighbors.

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## PHYSICS—MATHEMATICS

**A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON ORTHOGONAL POLYNOMIALS**—Report of the Committee on A Bibliography on Orthogonal Polynomials, Division of Physical Sciences, National Research Coun.; J. A. Shohat, Chairman—*National Research Council*, 203 p., \$3.

*Science News Letter, December 28, 1940*

## GENERAL SCIENCE

**SCIENCE ON PARADE**—A. Frederick Collins—*Appleton-Century*, 314 p., illus., \$3. Chapters on astronomy, aviation, chemistry, electricity, health, light, music, photography, radio facsimile, synthetic speech and television give pertinent details of recent advances in science. Many diagrams.

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