

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

LABORATORY ASTRONOMY—Harlan True Stetson—*Eastern Science Supply Co.* (\$1.75). Once a purely descriptive subject, college astronomy has now developed into a laboratory course, largely due to the labors of Dr. Stetson and Dr. Duncan, of Wellesley, who collaborated with him in the preparation of this book. It is a laboratory manual, taking up such topics as construction of star charts, determination of the height of the earth's atmosphere from meteor trails, calculation of a lunar eclipse, and the use of equatorial telescope, sextant, and other astronomical instruments.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE WORKS OF GEBER—Richard Russell—*Dent* (\$2). Abu Musa Jabir ibn Hayyan, generally known as Jabir, or, in the Occidental form of Geber, was an Arabian chemist of the eighth century A. D., and his works are the most important of medieval chemical treatises. Translations of the Latin editions were made into French, English and German in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Richard Russell's translation appeared in 1678, and is now rare, so the publishers are to be congratulated for issuing a new edition and thus making it readily available to modern readers. Figures from the 1545 Latin edition at Berne are added.

History of Science
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES—Edward W. Washburn, Editor-in-chief—*McGraw-Hill* (\$12). The fifth volume of this monumental work of the National Research Council, made possible by the cooperation of various industries and other nations. Tables relating to viscosity and fluidity, heat, light and soaps and aqueous solutions are included. Though it was originally intended that the work would be complete in five volumes, more have proven necessary, which will appear when completed.

General Science
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

INDUSTRIAL CARBON—C. L. Mantell—*Van Nostrand*—(\$4.50). The second volume in the publisher's series of Industrial Chemical Monographs, in which the many industrial applications of carbon, as lampblack, charcoal, carbon electrodes, brushes, etc., are discussed.

Industrial Chemistry
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

TREES IN KANSAS—Albert Dickens, Margaret E. Whittemore, and Frank C. Gates—*Kansas State Board of Agriculture*. Since the coming of the white man the prairies and plains of the West, once thought of as "treeless," are assuming constantly increasing importance as partially timbered areas. This compact handbook of dendrology and systematics of Kansas trees will be useful outside the borders of the state for which it was published.

Botany
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

DAHLIAS—F. F. Rockwell—*Macmillan* (\$1). This is a most worthy addition to the Home Garden Handbooks series, telling what dahlias to select and how to care for them. To lovers of this old and increasingly popular favorite, this little book will be highly welcome.

Horticulture
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

PLANTS OF CENTRAL IOWA—H. S. Conard—*Published by the author*. Beginning as a mimeographed local key for the use of botany students at Grinnell College, this has been expanded by Professor Conard until it is good for the entire central Iowa region. It is to be hoped that eventually it will grow into a member of the growing family of state floras.

Botany
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

FIELD MANUAL OF THE FLORA OF OHIO AND ADJACENT TERRITORY—J. H. Schaffner—*R. G. Adams* (\$3). An analytical key, with brief synopses of genera. This is a very worthy addition to the literature of state and regional botany.

Botany
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

TREE CROPS: A PERMANENT AGRICULTURE—J. Russell Smith—*Harcourt Brace* (\$4). Prof. Smith has long been one of those who view with just alarm the progress of soil denudation on American hillsides from which the mantle of protecting forest was stripped by a pioneer generation whose zeal was not equaled by its knowledge of agronomy. Here he proposes his remedy; not merely the planting of forests for wood, but their planting for food. Such little-thought-of things as acorns, carob pods and persimmons figure in his scheme for making the trees pay their own way while with their roots they hold our slipping soil.

Agronomy
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

HUMAN BIOLOGY—Edited by Raymond Pearl—*Warwick and York* (quarterly: \$5 a year). This new magazine, just launched by Prof. Raymond Pearl and a brilliant board of collaborators, meets a most obvious want, for a journal wherein may be brought together studies in anthropology, anthropometry, psychology, physiology, genetics, statistics and a whole range of sciences in so far as they bear upon human life. The opening number brings a most promising list of contributors: Henry Fairfield Osborn, T. Wingate Todd, C. B. Davenport, Harry Bakwin, George Draper, and a symposium, Studies on Constitution, led by Prof. Pearl. With succeeding numbers keeping up to this level, *Human Biology* obviously becomes another one of those magazines a properly supplied scientific laboratory can not get along without.

Human Biology
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE COLLOID CHEMISTRY OF PROTOPLASM—L. V. Heilbrunn—*Borntraeger* (\$5). Prof. Heilbrunn has done biologists in general, and biochemists and biophysicists in especial, a great service in getting into this single compact volume a concise and up-to-date account of what is perhaps the most difficult of all the branches of colloid chemistry. Not the least valuable feature of the book is its 43-page bibliography of the principal literature. The German publishers have done an excellent job of English printing.

Biochemistry
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FOREST CONTROL IN THE UNITED STATES—Jenks Cameron—*Johns Hopkins Pr.* (\$3). This is a Brookings Institute study of the administrative history of forestry in this country, and to those who know what a kaleidoscopic and often hotly controversial affair that has been such a history will be most welcome. It need not be thought, either, that because it emanates from an institution devoted to research in economics that it is a chapter in a "dismal science"; on the contrary, the style of the narrative corresponds sympathetically with the vigor and liveliness of the topic.

History of Science
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

MODERN PHYSICS—Charles E. Dull—*Holt* (\$1.80). A new and excellent high school physics text.

Physics
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

Book Reviews—Continued

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MARRIAGE?—G. V. Hamilton and Kenneth Macgowan—*Boni* (\$3). A psychiatrist and a playwright collaborated on this study of a popular modern problem. The information was gathered by questioning 200 men and women. The authors regret that this number was not larger so as to be of more scientific value. Their conclusions will be read with interest by great numbers who are dissatisfied with the present status of marriage. Responsibility for the easy, pleasant style rests with Mr. Macgowan, who did the writing.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE FOOD OF JAPAN—Egerton Charles Grey—*Health Organization of the League of Nations* (\$1.25). This publication gives the result of a detailed study of the quantity, quality, distribution and composition of food in Japan. It is confined to a statement of facts and avoids any expression of opinion. The object of the work is to supply information as accurate as possible on the subject as a basis for the study of the relation of food to the health of the people. The report will be extremely interesting to nutritionists and economists.

Nutrition
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE LIFE OF THOMAS A. EDISON IN WORD AND PICTURE—*Thomas A. Edison, Inc.* (Orange, N. J.) (Gratis). A brochure containing a complete pictorial history of this greatest of American inventors, ending with the award of the Congressional Medal last October.

Biography
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE RADIO INDUSTRY—A symposium—*Shaw* (\$5). A complete account of the development of radio as an industry, particularly as embodied in the Radio Corporation of America, told by such leaders as General Harbord, David Sarnoff, Dr. F. B. Jewett, Judge Stephen Davis, Merlin H. Aylesworth and others.

Radio
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THYROXINE—Edward C. Kendall—*Chemical Catalog* (\$5.50). A complete treatise on the chemistry and pharmacology of this therapeutically important extract of the thyroid gland. It is a volume in the American Chemical Society's Monograph Series.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH YEAR-BOOK—*Health Organization of League of Nations* (\$4, paper; \$5, cloth). This is the year-book for 1927, the third year of the work. It covers public health progress of twenty-seven countries during 1926. Reports from several countries are included in this volume for the first time. An effort has been made also to make the demographic part of the reports more uniform. This large volume will be of great interest and value to public health workers, historians and statisticians all over the world.

Public Health
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES FOR NURSES—A. G. Bower and E. B. Pilant—*Saunders* (\$3). Elizabeth F. Miller, nursing consultant of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare furnished a foreword to this textbook for nurses. The volume fills an important need in the training of nurses. It gives details of general medical aseptic technic, on which is based all communicable disease nursing and isolation. The actual nursing treatment of each disease, in hospital or home, is given, with a brief description of the nature and cause of the disease. All terms are defined in a glossary, and there are many illustrations. The book should be useful for mothers as well as nurses.

Medicine—Nursing
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

ROENTGENOLOGY—G. W. C. Kaye—*Hoerber* (\$2). A little book by a leading authority that gives clearly and concisely the history of X-rays, the basic physical principles, some of the modern applications, such as crystal analysis and protective measures for the operator.

Physics
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

FROM CRYSTAL TO TELEVISION—Vyvian Richards—*A. & C. Black*—(\$2). A British book on radio that introduces some novelties in the explanations. The chapter on television describes only British methods, particularly those of J. L. Baird.

Radio
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

PRACTICAL RADIO—James A. Moyer and John F. Wostrel—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2.50). The third edition of this deservedly popular text on radio.

Radio
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY AND SOILS: ITS HISTORY, ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION—G. A. Weber—*Johns Hopkins Pr.* (\$1.50). This volume constitutes number 52 of the Service Monographs of the United States Government, issued by the Institute for Government Research of the Brookings Institution. As the title implies, it gives a concise statement of the work of one of the most important of the bureaus of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, recently created by the fusion of the previously separate Bureau of Soils, Bureau of Chemistry and Fixed Nitrogen Laboratory, taking in also some of the soil and fertilizer work previously carried on by the Bureau of Plant Industry.

History of Science
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE COMPOSITION OF WATER—J. R. Partington—*G. Bell & Sons (London)* (1s 6d). A volume in the series of "Classics of Scientific Method", a little book that tells of the historic work of Cavendish and others in determining what water was made of.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS—George D. Birkhoff—*American Mathematical Society* (\$3). This is volume IX in the series of the American Mathematical Society's Colloquium Publications. Naturally, it is highly mathematical.

Mathematics
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS—Albert Edward Caswell—*Macmillan* (\$1.40). A well-prepared college laboratory manual.

Physics
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

PATENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD—Wm. Wallace White and Wallace White; second edition by Byfleet G. Ravenscroft—*Trade Activities, Inc.* (\$10). A complete summary of patent law in all countries. As the book is looseleaf, additions can be made to it from time to time to take care of changes. Anyone concerned with inventions or patents will find this work invaluable.

Invention
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929

THE VEGETATION OF THE ALLEGANY STATE PARK—Norman Taylor—*N. Y. State Mus. Handbook 5* (50c.). A popular discussion of the ecology of one of the most interesting of American state parks.

Botany
Science News-Letter, March 9, 1929