

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE—Report of the Ninety-sixth Meeting, Glasgow, 1928—*British Association. London* (25s.). Each year the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science affords a review and summary of not only British science but research and discovery in many other parts of the world. This report is unusually fat and meaty.

General Science
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

STANDARDS YEARBOOK, 1929—The National Bureau of Standards—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (\$1). The wheels of industry and commerce run smoothly because of effective and widespread standardization sponsored by association and governmental activities. For the third year the National Bureau of Standards has issued a handbook to standardization accomplishments.

General Science
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

POPULAR SCIENCE TALKS—*Phila. College of Pharmacy & Science* (\$1). The sixth volume in a series of books in which are printed the interesting lectures on popular science that the college presents each year. This one covers a diversity of topics, such as "What and Where Are the Stars", by Dr. George Rosengarten; "The Romance of Cookery", by Dean Charles H. LaWall; "The Realm of the X-Ray", by Dr. Ivor Griffith; "Animals That Live in Man", by Dr. Marin S. Dunn, and eight others.

General Science
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

RADIOMOVIES, RADIOVISION. TELEVISION—C. Francis Jenkins—*Jenkins Laboratories (1519 Conn. Ave., N. W., Washington)* (\$2.50). Here, gathered into a handy volume, are the articles on constructing a radiovisor which Mr. Jenkins prepared for Science Service, and which were published in the SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER last autumn. This is supplemented by accounts of some of his other inventions, such as the radio weather map transmitter, the drum scanner for radiovision, in which a small drum replaces a large disc and a new airplane altimeter. With the author's earlier "Vision by Radio" (1925), it forms a concise summary of the achievements of one of America's most clever inventors.

Invention
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

MAN ALIVE—Avrhum Gedalue—*Acme*. The book has the appearance of being another popular explanation of the structure and functions of the human body. Actually the author has perverted and misinterpreted the facts to fit his own peculiar and unsound theories of the cause of disease. The book contains just enough truth to deceive the ignorant and unwary. It is a glowing example of one fault of modern education, the production of would-be philosophizers and theorizers who have a ready vocabulary but no sound knowledge or logic to back it up.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

MODERN PREVENTIVE MEDICINE—Sir Arthur Newsholme—*Williams & Wilkins* (\$4). This book tells the story of preventive medicine since the days of Pasteur. Progress in the knowledge of cause, cure and prevention of communicable diseases and also of glandular and dietary or deficiency diseases is given briefly. The book is intended as a continuation of the author's earlier volume, the "Evolution of Preventive Medicine." The discussion of each topic is necessarily brief, although clarity is not sacrificed. The book is meant to be elementary and to furnish the stimulus for further study of the subject on the part of students and social and medical workers.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

RENE THEOPHILE HYACINTHE LAENNEC—Gerald B. Webb—*Hoerber* (\$2). The book was inspired by the Laennec centenary in December, 1926, and is expanded from an address on Laennec given before the Denver Clinical and Pathological Society. It is the only full-length account in English of the life and work of this great physician whose treatise on auscultation is one of the classics of medicine.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

WILLIAM HARVEY—Archibald Malloch—*Hoerber* (\$1.50). The tercentenary of William Harvey's birth was the occasion for the writing of this small volume which gives a brief but interesting account of the life and important work of one of the world's greatest physicians. It was Harvey who first discovered how the blood circulates.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

THE BISHOP MURDER CASE—S. S. Van Dine—*Scribners* (\$2). Never before has the SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER reviewed a detective story. Even though this is the latest and best of a quartette of books by an author (Willard Huntington Wright) who, with Philo Vance, now fills the place left vacant by Conan Doyle when he retired Sherlock Holmes for the last time, that alone would not qualify it for mention in these pages. But when the murderer is a mathematical physicist and mathematical physics plays an important part in the book, then the book rises into a class of its own. What makes the book still more unique is that Mr. Wright handles Riemannian geometry, tensors, Einsteinian curved space and such things with such facility that critical mathematicians have been unable to find any technical errors. However, the occasional use of language by the characters which, while perfectly correct, is not quite what a mathematical physicist would be likely to use under such circumstances, and the misspelling of such a well-known name as Shapely (rendered Shapliegh) show that the author has "read up" on modern physics for the occasion. But there are few authors with the necessary background to absorb such "reading-up", and so this book is to be recommended to all who like to read a good mystery story without having their intelligence insulted by a too-obvious solution.

Mathematical Physics
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

COMMONWEALTH FUND ANNUAL REPORT—The report covers the activities sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund during 1928 in the fields of education, public health, mental hygiene, child guidance, legal research, publications, etc. Particularly interesting are the reports of the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships and of the work of the Austrian division, work which will be discontinued on July 1 next, after five years of successful public health activities.

Education—Public Health
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

FLOODS IN THE VALLEY OF THE MISSISSIPPI—J. P. Kemper, C. E.—*National Flood Commission, New Orleans, La.* A plea for the plan of Mississippi flood relief advocated by one group interested in the flood problem.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

Book Reviews—Continued

REFERENCE BOOK OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY—Wendell M. Latimer and Joel H. Hildebrand—*Macmillan* (\$3.75). Here is an excellent, complete, yet concise summary of inorganic chemistry. As the name implies, it is not a text-book. "The authors," they say, "have sought to present essential chemical facts briefly, clearly and in due relation to other facts and principles. The instructor using it will have to map out his own course, following whatever order of arrangement appeals to him. "Obviously, the success of such a work depends largely upon the instructor. If he is a good one, he could teach his students far more with its aid than by following any stereotyped plan, but in the hands of a poor instructor, it would probably not be so satisfactory. Besides the student, however, teachers themselves and industrial chemists will undoubtedly find it to be a valuable volume for their reference shelf.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

ANALYTIC MECHANICS—Joseph B. Reynolds—*Prentice-Hall* (\$4). This text in analytic mechanics is intended primarily for students in technical schools and colleges. Many practical applications are given and explained, while others are suggested or involved in the problems set for the student to solve. The development is such that, with some omissions, the text can be used equally well where a course in pure or theoretical mechanics is desired. In kinematics the foundation required is a working knowledge of analytic geometry and the calculus. In kinetics, a working knowledge of elementary mechanics and kinematics is required.

Mechanics

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

GENERAL SCIENCE—Anna B. Reagenstein and William Ray Teeters—*Rand, McNally* (\$1.60). A new addition to the already rather crowded field of general science textbooks, but one which adequately covers the subject. Any teacher using it, however, would do well to tear out the color plate containing Fig. 222, showing a solar eclipse with a brilliant red corona, an inaccuracy of coloring that is inexcusable.

General Science

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

AVIATION LAW—Henry G. Hotchkiss—*Baker, Voorhis & Co.* (\$7.50). Every new application of science creates its special laws. Adolescent aviation's regulations—international, federal and state—are given in this volume.

Aeronautics

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

THE TRAGEDY OF THE ITALIA—Davide Giudici—*Appleton* (\$3). The Italian correspondent upon the Soviet rescue ship, the Krassin, tells his story of the ill-fated Nobile Arctic flight.

Aeronautics

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

AIR NAVIGATION AND METEOROLOGY—Richard Duncan—*Goodheart-Willcox* (\$3). Since the enthusiastic yachting amateur of previous decades now has his counterpart in the air, this book on navigation and weather in the ocean of the atmosphere will appeal to non-professionals as well as those who make aviation their profession.

Mathematical Physics

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

RACING THE MOON (AND WINNING)—John Henry Mears—*Henkle* (\$2). If Jules Verne could only have lived until today! This is the story of the swiftest journey ever made around the world.

Aeronautics

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

NOTRE TOUR DE LA TERRE—D. Costes et J. M. LeBrix—*Librairie Hachette* (75c). The story, in French, of a noteworthy aeronautical achievement.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

SOUTH AMERICA—Harry A. Franck—*F. A. Owen* (96c.). A travel reader without a dull page. The author chooses the method of telling about his own journeys, and he is a traveler who is not afraid to swim rivers, hike hundreds of miles, wade through swamps, and live among native tribes. With all the picturesque adventures and colorful detail, he never fails to present the facts that a travel reader of this sort is expected to give to boys and girls of intermediate grades.

Geography

Science News-Letter, March 16, 1929

America First!

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- Long Lance*, by Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance. New York, 1928..... 2.50
- My People, the Sioux*, by Luther Standing Bear. Boston, 1928..... 4.00
- The People of the Twilight*, by D. Jenness. New York, 1928 (Es-kimos) 3.00

NATIONAL PARKS:

- The Lake of the Sky, Lake Tahoe*, by George Wharton James. Boston, 1928\$5.00
- The Lure of the Great Smokies*, by Robert L. Mason. Boston, 1927.. 4.50
- Oh, Ranger!* by Horace M. Albright and Frank J. Taylor. Stanford, 1928 2.50
- Our National Parks*, by Mary A. Rolfe. 2 volumes. Chicago, 1928, per volume..... 1.00

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Annals of Niagara*, by William Kirby. Toronto, 1927.....\$6.00
- The Falls of Niagara*, by Glenn C. Forrester. New York, 1928..... 2.50
- High Lights of Geography—North America, Yonkers-on-Hudson, 1925.. 1.44*
- Hidden Heroes of the Rockies*, by Isaac K. Russell. Yonkers-on-Hudson, 1923..... 1.36
- Mexico and Its Heritage*, by Ernest Gruening. New York, 1928..... 6.00

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