

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

AT HOME AMONG THE ATOMS—James Kendall—*Century* (\$3). This is the only book so far published and intended for the non-technical reader that attempts to explain the latest theories of the structure of the atom and the ultimate composition of matter. The latest news from this front to reach the newspaper is the atom invented by Bohr which was comparatively easy to grasp, being modeled after the solar system that everybody thought he understood. But Prof. Kendall goes two steps beyond this point and introduces us to Schrödinger and de Broglie, who are decidedly disconcerting to those of us brought up to believe in solid matter and little round hard atoms. Now we have to get used to the idea that the smallest particle of matter is merely an electrical hole in the middle of a pulsating aura. The author was born in England, has been professor in two American universities, Columbia and New York, and has now been called to Edinburgh University. In spite of this background—or because of it—his book is plumb full of jokes, all sorts, some very obvious, some very recondite. The natural aridity of the subject is further alleviated by frequent historic quotations and personalities.

*Atomic Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

THE LAW OF GRAVITATION IN RELATIVITY—Horace C. Levinson and Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler—*Univ. of Chicago Press* (\$3.50). This book deals with the central problem of Einstein's relativity theory, that of the law of gravitation. As the method adopted is that of the theory of tensors, the first chapters are devoted to a detailed treatment of this subject. It is shown that there are four possible tensor laws. Two are obviously inadequate, the third cannot be eliminated so simply and the fourth is Einstein's law. The last chapter contains a brief treatment of the more elementary dynamical problems of the solar system, under a very general set of gravitational laws that includes the above set as a special case.

*Mathematics*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

FAMOUS DIAMONDS—O. C. Farrington—*Field Museum* (25c). A brief popular account of the famous diamonds of history.

*Mineralogy*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

FALSEHOOD IN WAR-TIME—Arthur Ponsonby, M. P.—*Dutton* (\$2). A fascinating little book that reveals the truth about the stories of German atrocities, the alleged war aims, the invasion of Belgium as a cause of the war, and many of the other pieces of propaganda that we swallowed twelve years ago. Mr. Ponsonby has made a thorough study of many of these lies, and here gives the sources of many of them. The unfortunate thing is that such a book as this will be read by too few people, and when there is another war, we shall probably be just as ready to believe as we were in 1917.

*Group Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

WAR AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY—James T. Shotwell—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.50). A history and discussion of the entire movement for the outlawry of war which has now culminated in the Kellogg treaties by the man most competent to write about it, since Prof. Shotwell of Columbia University was a member of the American Peace Commission and has been for the last ten years engaged in the preparation of the Carnegie "Economic and Social History of the World War", the most extensive and authoritative history of any war ever written.

*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

THE READING INTERESTS AND HABITS OF ADULTS—W. S. Gray and Ruth Munroe—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). Educators and librarians will be interested in this careful study "to discover what is in the experience of some persons which causes them to acquire and continue desirable habits of reading, and what is lacking from the experience of others which leaves them without such habits."

*Bibliography*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

NOAH'S CARGO—George Jennison—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). Parrots, elephants, bullfights, pelicans, chimps, flamingoes—two by two and three by three and in all assorted numbers: what a gaudy time Capt. Noah must have had! This book takes the reader for no end of zestful and sometimes breathless little excursions among animals, real and imaginary, historical and fictional. Where the author collected all this miscellaneous information is hard to imagine, but it reads like Sindbad and is as hard to lay down.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

BLOOD—Lawrence J. Henderson—*Yale University Press* (\$5). This book with the murder story title is concerned quite literally with blood, being an advanced study in general physiology. It comprises the Silliman Lectures given at Yale University. The book is too technical for the lay reader but will be of interest to the physiologist, biological chemist and physician.

*Physiology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

GUIDE TO THE USE OF LIBRARIES, A MANUAL FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, 4th ed.—M. Hutchins, A. S. Johnson and M. S. Williams.—*Wilson* (\$1.25). Librarians are often horrified to discover a college graduate who has no conception of the operation of a library. It is an important thing to know at any age, but should be learned in high school or college. This book supplies all of the most necessary information.

*Bibliography*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

ENROLLMENT IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF THE UNITED STATES—Compiled by Carleton A. Wheeler and others—*Macmillan* (\$2). A thorough statistical study, showing trends and relative conditions in different regions of the country, among students of different ages, communities of different sizes. The study reveals that conditions vary very much from city to city and state to state. Latin, for example, is studied by 32 per cent. of high school pupils in the south, but by less than 10 per cent. in California. Since language teaching in American schools is a controversial and important educational problem this investigation is a valuable basic document.

*Education*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

PEAKS OF INVENTION—Joseph Leeming—*Century* (\$2.50). In the twelve interesting chapters of this book the author tells of some of the most important developments of the twentieth century, such as the modern submarine cable, the marvels of chemistry, radio, telephone, superpower, modern telescopes, etc. Though many of these originated before the present century, it has been in the last twenty-five years that they have had their most striking development, and it is with this phase that the author is particularly concerned.

*Invention*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

## First Glances at New Books—Continued

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SEARLES LAKE BRINE—John E. Teeple—*Chemical Catalog* (\$3). One novel feature of the origin of this book is explained by the author in the preface: "This information . . . belongs to the American Potash and Chemical Corporation, it was done at their initiative and was paid for with their money. It has now largely served its original purpose, and normally would have spent the rest of its existence buried in their files. . . . One could wish that other chemical corporations would likewise release data from their files when it can be done without furnishing ammunition to direct competitors. Scientific information is about the only valuable commodity we are accustomed to bury for fear someone else might derive benefit from it." Searles Lake, in California, has proven a valuable source of sodium and potassium salts.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

FUNDAMENTALS OF PHYSICS—A. L. Fitch—*Crowell* (\$2.50). A new college text, based on the course as given by the author at the University of Maine, thus assuring its practical character. Many of the latest advances are included, and a number of pictures of physicists (several obtained from Science Service) add to the interest of the work from the student's viewpoint.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

PRACTICAL RAILWAY PAINTING AND LACQUERING—H. Hengeveld, C. P. Disney and William J. Miskella—*Simmons-Boardman* (\$3.50). A new volume in the Practical Finishing Series of the Finishing Research Laboratories of Chicago, which fully covers the subject with practical information. Of particular interest to the layman is the account of painting methods used on the great Quebec Bridge.

*Technology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

YOUR TEETH—Charles I. Stoloff—*Dutton* (\$2.50). Using the question and answer form, this book gives detailed information about the structure and care of the teeth and about diseases of teeth and mouth and explains the methods and terms of modern dentistry. Many good illustrations add to an easy understanding of the subject.

*Dentistry*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

GODS AND MEN—W. J. Perry—*Morrow* (\$1). This little book summarizes the theory elaborated by Prof. Perry of Manchester University in his earlier books, *The Children of the Sun*, and *The Growth of Civilization*. From his study of the legends of the Pawnees, Samoans, Egyptians, Hindus, etc., he has come to the conclusion that religion arose from the identification of the King with the sun as the source of life and in the ritual intended to secure the continuance of his favor after death.

*Theology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

RADIO UP TO THE MINUTE—Arthur R. Nilson—*Clode* (\$2). A concise and well written book that lives up to its title. Included are accounts of the latest forms of vacuum tubes, speakers, short-wave apparatus and television receivers and transmitters.

*Radio*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

INTRODUCTION TO THE TECHNIC OF CHILD ANALYSIS—Anna Freud—*Nervous and Mental Disease Pub. Co.* (\$1.50). The usual methods of psychoanalysis are not applicable to children, the daughter of the famous Freud has found. In these lectures, originally given for the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, she explains the "wild" method which she has borrowed from psychoanalysis and which she has found effective with her young patients.

*Psychiatry*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

INFANCY AND HUMAN GROWTH—Arnold Gesell—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). The book gives the story of how a baby's mind develops during its first few years. Dr. Gesell is an authority and this collection of his observations and conclusions will be hailed by psychologists, physicians and educators. It is not beyond the scope of parents, although the scientific style may prove troublesome. The volume is profusely illustrated with charts and excellent photographs.

*Child Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

MAKING GOODS AND MAKING MONEY—Horace Taylor—*Macmillan* (\$2.50). An addition to the modern literature on economics. The author concludes that a unification of social interests in making goods with individual interests in making money will not, alone, cure our economic ills.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

THE WEED FLORA OF IOWA—L. H. Pammel and Charlotte M. King—*Iowa Geol. Survey*. A new edition of Prof. Pammel's widely known and much used work on weeds. It is, of course, of value throughout the whole upper Mississippi Valley.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

THE FROGS AND TOADS OF THE CHICAGO AREA—K. P. Schmidt—*Field Museum* (25c). This is a slender pamphlet, but contains information out of proportion to its size. There is a good key and plenty of clear illustrations. It will be useful to students far outside the area to which its title limits it.

*Zoology*  
*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

### A Geologist's Religion

*Theology*  
Shortly before the death of the famous geologist, Prof. Thomas C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago, the *Open Court* magazine for September, 1928, printed an article by J. V. Nash on "Professor Chamberlin, Dean of American Scientists, on the Future of Man". Excerpts from this article were published in the SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER for October 13, 1928. In this republication it was not made clear that the remarks of Prof. Chamberlin were given in an interview with Mr. Nash, nor was it indicated that the republication consisted of excerpts rather than a continuous quotation. Professor Chamberlin's statements were in the nature of informal oral replies to questions and were not revised by him.

*Science News-Letter, April 20, 1929*

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