

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

SOCIAL LIFE OF THE ANTS—Auguste Forel—*Albert and Charles Boni* (\$15). These two beautifully illustrated volumes are probably destined to remain one of the classic works on ants. They sum up a century of entomological research and constitute a lasting monument to the widely discredited fact that charm of expression does not have to be sacrificed to scientific accuracy. The wealth of detail that makes this work invaluable to the myrmecologist makes it no less delightful to any amateur naturalist who takes joy in all living things.

Entomology
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

MIDDLETOWN—Robert S. and Helen Merrell Lynd—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$5). This book is the result of the author's thoroughgoing study of the life of a small, fairly typical American city. It gives a good picture of the city's activities in every direction—industrial, social, religious, family, etc. One irritating feature of the book is the continuous use of footnotes. In themselves they are interesting enough to have been included in the text. The book will probably make its greatest appeal to social workers who can find in it a correlation of the many problems they meet.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

OBREGON'S HISTORY—George P. Hammond and Agapito Rey—*Wetzel* (\$10.00). This contemporary history of sixteenth century explorations in Mexico and Southwestern United States has been translated and edited by Hammond and Rey without the loss of the picturesque style or thought of the original historian, Baltasar Obregon. According to the translators the book is a fairly accurate document. It gives an interesting though rather sanguine picture of the times.

History
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

TRACKING DOWN THE ENEMIES OF MAN—Arthur Torrance—*Sears* (\$3.50). Dr. Torrance has made an exciting tale of his experiences in the tropics, where he hunted the big and little game—lions, tigers, tiny insects and microscopical organisms—that threaten man's life in the tropics. The book is full of stirring, heroic occurrences, and much information on the subject of tropical diseases may be pleasantly acquired from reading it.

Tropical Medicine
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

ON THE BOTTOM—Commander Edward Ellsberg—*Dodd, Mead & Co.* (\$3). For adventure the mere surface of the earth has become too tame. Below the surface of the sea there are adventures that compete with those that occur in the clouds. Picked as the Literary Guild selection for May, this book dramatizes the salvaging of the S-51.

Navigation
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

A LABORATORY STUDY-GUIDE FOR BIOLOGY—Charles A. Gramet—*The School Book Company* (65c). The pupils who complete this course of observation in the biological laboratory will acquire a new viewpoint from which to observe the living things about them.

Biology
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

NINE YEARS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS 1920-28—Denys P. Myers—*World Peace Foundation Pamphlets* (40c). Many consider the political aspects of the League of Nations the least important. And when one reads a summary of its constructive activities promoting health, intellectual cooperation, and other projects advancing civilization, there comes a feeling that international accord is really practical.

Political Science
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

WHY WE ARE MEN AND WOMEN—A. L. Benedict—*Ross* (\$2.50). This book discusses the old idea of sex determination, presenting the ancient theories and a few modern ones.

Index
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

YOUR EYES AND THEIR CARE—Edgar S. Thomson—*Appleton* (\$1.50). The author explains to the layman the structure and function of the eyes, the various diseases and ailments of eyes and what may be done for them. This includes an explanation of the fitting of eye glasses and of what occurs and what the treatment is in certain types of injuries.

Ophthalmology
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEAT TRANSMISSION DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH—*National Research Council*. Heat transfer, so vital to industry in many respects, is mysterious. This small mimeographed booklet is the key to the present knowledge on radiation of heat.

Physics
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

GERMAN IDIOM LIST—Edward F. Haugh—**SPANISH IDIOM LIST**—Hayward Keniston—*Macmillan Co.* (60c each). Idiom has been called the soul of language. When educators list, as they have in these books, those that are used most frequently and therefore should be learned first, they are performing a service to the millions who study languages.

Language
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

THE HALL OF DINOSAURS—Frederic A. Lucas—*The American Museum of Natural History* (10c). For a brief journey into the age of dinosaurs, this guide leaflet is useful.

Paleontology
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

FUNDAMENTALS OF CHEMISTRY—Gray, Sandifur & Hanna—*Houghton Mifflin Co.* (\$1.80). A text book appearing in revised and enlarged edition.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

BOULEVARDED OLD TRAILS IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST—Frank H. Trego *Greenberg, Inc.* (\$3.50). To those who visit the great southwest rich in legend and living record, this vivid travel-talk will be interesting.

Geography
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEERING FOUNDATION—Research in engineering is the object of the Engineering Foundation and this report for its fourteenth year lists many important projects.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

DOWN WIND—Donald and Louise Peatty—*Appleton* (\$2.50). Story-ized accounts of the lives of birds and beasts and even a broad, flat toad, together with some good pictures.

Natural History
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

FIVE YEARS IN FARGO—*Commonwealth Fund* (\$1). This report of the Commonwealth Fund Child Health Demonstration carried on for five years in Fargo, N. D., will be of especial interest to social workers, health officers, public health nurses, teachers and any others engaged in public and child health work. The report is extremely readable and pleasingly illustrated. It contains much that will be helpful to other communities that are trying to improve the health of their children.

Public Health
Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

First Glances at New Books—Continued

THIS FILM BUSINESS—R. P. Messel—*Ernest Benn, Ltd.* (12/6). Movies are seen through English eyes in this book and those scientists who plunge into the new era which has made motion pictures articulate would do well to consult this book for hints as to one of the viewpoints from which the reborn industry is surveyed.

Motion Pictures

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

CIVIL AIRPORTS AND AIRWAYS—Archibald Black—*Simmons-Boardman Publishing Co.* (\$4). With over a thousand airports under construction in this country and with airways being developed as intensively as highways were a decade ago, such a book as this will undoubtedly provide the necessary information for perplexed local airport committee members and engineers entering an essentially new field.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY—Leo F. Miller—*Wagner* (\$3). This concise text first presents physiological psychology, then takes up such topics as mind, will, thought, and other psychistic phenomena, leading up to a discussion of what may be understood by the soul. Intended primarily as a text for Catholic colleges, and for readers who are interested in, and perhaps perplexed by, the problems of mind versus body.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

THE MACHINES WE ARE—R. T. Hance—*Author* (\$3.50). Prof. Hance has tried a new tack with this book. His chapters are chats, informal, not loaded with technical terms, yet good, solid physiology and not "written down" to any imaginary intelligence level. The book can be used profitably by college classes, and it can be read with pleasure and interest by the layman who has no professor to guide him.

Physiology

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

STRENGTH OF MATERIALS—Arthur Morley—*Longman, Green & Co.* (\$4.20). This seventh edition of a standard British text would be of greater service in the United States if it derived at least some of its examples from the testing practice of this country.

Engineering

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

THE FARMER'S STANDARD OF LIVING—E. L. Kirkpatrick—*Century* (\$2.) Is farm relief needed? This book is based on a six-year study of farmers and farm life by an economist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is a careful study of the situation, and will interest all who are concerned with the welfare of the farmer, or the status of American agriculture.

Agriculture

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

RAYON INDUSTRY, 1928-29 Edition—*Textile World*—*McGraw-Hill* (\$1). This annual volume affords an opportunity to keep within sight of the amazingly swift advance of this new textile which has grown up in our generation. The domestic output of rayon is now increasing at the rate of 30 per cent. a year. This year it is expected to reach 129,000,000 pounds, twice as much as any other country in the world.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

THE STORY OF FRANCE—Paul Van Lyke—*Scribners* (\$3.50). The events, lives and forces, from Julius Caesar to Napoleon III, that have made the France of today are related in this book in a most interesting and sympathetic fashion. The author has omitted all tiresome dates and names which ordinarily make history dull reading. He closes his colorful story with a convincing assertion of the peace-loving nature of the French people who "have dedicated to Pasteur more memorials than to Napoleon."

History

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

GOITER PREVENTION AND THYROID PROTECTION—Israel Bram—*Davis* (\$4). Dr. Bram explains the function of the thyroid gland and the development of goiter in language simple enough to be understood by those who have not had special scientific training. A brief discussion of the other ductless glands and a dietary regimen are included in the book, which will be useful to social workers and nurses and patients suffering from thyroid disturbances.

Medicine

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

WHAT IS DARWINISM?—T. H. Morgan—*Norton* (\$1). Two critical essays by one of America's best-known biologists, bringing some original ideas into a discussion that has begun to grow somewhat stiff from too much talking over old ones.

Evolution

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

STUDY AND PERSONALITY—Richard L. Sandwick—*Heath* (\$1.12). A textbook for boys and girls entering high school, designed to show them how to study and, more than that, how to make the most of themselves. There is considerable explanation, based on scientific principles, of how to concentrate, memorize, and organize a daily program to the best advantage. But before the book is finished the author has casually discussed the sporting attitude, lunch hours, choosing courses, conserving energy, cordiality, what personality is, and, in fact, practically every angle of high school life.

Education—Psychology

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

THE LAST GLACIATION—Ernest Antevs—*American Geographical Society* (\$3.50). A visualization of the last great ice age stirs the imagination. Now that Dr. Antevs through many years has laboriously traced its limits and fluctuations, those who desire may obtain a better understanding of the climatic conditions that preceded the age in which we live.

Geography

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

FIELD STUDIES IN SOCIOLOGY—Vivien M. Palmer—*Univ. of Chicago Press* (\$2.50). A student's manual, the first that has been published to aid young sociologists entering upon research and field work. Besides giving much information on methods and techniques, the author outlines in careful detail studies of three different type groups. The manual is keyed to a number of standard texts on sociology so that the student will find in it the practical application of familiar principles and theories.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929

TEXTBOOK OF EVOLUTION AND GENETICS—A. W. Lindsey—*Macmillan* (\$3). The right extinguisher for the black flame of prejudiced ignorance that is threatening many of our universities and school systems is a solid knowledge of what the doctrine of evolution really means. Every college and university biology department should offer a special course in evolution. Prof. Lindsey's text could be used for such a course, without requiring even the usual Bot. I or Zool. I as a prerequisite.

Evolution

Science News-Letter, May 4, 1929