

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

A PREFACE TO MORALS—Walter Lippmann—*Macmillan* (\$2.50). A fearless confronting of the pressing problem of our day, the problem of the moralist in an unbelieving world. Mr. Lippmann finds the ethical and religious world in a state of chaos and sees the present generation slipping away from the control of commandments, customs, creeds and conventions, in short, freed from almost all the sanctions that have in the past regulated human conduct. "It seems to me indisputable that for the modern populace the old rules are becoming progressively unsuitable and the old symbols of hope and fear progressively unreal." He does not presume to set up a substitute system of standards and sanctions, it is too early for that, but he thinks "we can begin to see that the evidence converges upon the theory that what the sages have prophesied as high religion, what psychologists delineate as matured personality, and the disinterestedness which the Great Society requires for its practical fulfillment, are all of a piece, and are the basic elements of a modern morality." Unlike most radical reformers Mr. Lippmann does not ridicule the creeds he discards, but sincerely endeavors to discover what they contained that gave them their usefulness and what of their values may be retained for the future. A conspicuous instance of this, since it deals with a doctrine that nowadays gets kicks on all sides, is his recognition of the permanent value of asceticism as manifest in Buddha, Socrates, the early Christian saints and the Puritans. The eye of the author is equipped with a wide-angle lens; the range of his vision covers the field from Aristotle, Lucretius, Chrysostom and Spinoza to Inge, Fosdick, Whitehead and Ellis.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

EVERYDAY SCIENCE—L. M. Parsons—*Macmillan Co.* (8s 6d). Within this compact book of nearly 700 pages, the whole of science is interestingly presented, not for the reader whose tastes have been developed by modern fiction, but for the serious reader in search of general facts, the busy scientist wishing to refresh his memory on some point of common knowledge, or the British school boy of sixteen for whom the book was primarily written.

General Science
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

THE REALIST—Vol. I, No. 1—*Macmillan Co.*, London (2 shillings a copy). This is a new monthly magazine devoted to "Scientific Humanism," which being interpreted in the leading editorial means "If Science is to become articulate (and it can hardly become humane until it does) it must learn to express itself. We stand for making the specialist understood, for introducing the laboratorist, who has lived too long with symbols, to letters, and so giving him that important public which has no time to listen to a man who cannot express himself." The list of contributors include two Huxleys, Julian on "Individuality" and Aldous on "Pascal," Arnold Bennett on "The Progress of the Novel" and Sir Daniel Hall on "Science and the Farmer." Norman Haire explains Steinach's "Rejuvenation" and John Gibson tells why Labour fears Science, and Winifred Holtby discusses the "Psychology of Revivalism," apropos of "the failure of Aimée McPherson" in London. The new journal should find many readers in the United States, although all the editorials are narrowly British in topics, point of view and style of treatment.

General Science
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

FOUR FACES OF SIVA—Robert J. Casey—*Bobbs-Merrill* (\$5). A journey through Cambodia, one of the truly mysterious places left on earth. The atmosphere of enchantment that hovers over the battered temples and palaces buried in the jungle is well conveyed by the author's colorful and poetic style. But he is as much detective as poet, and so he revels in presenting all the clues he can assemble toward solving the great problems of Cambodia's lost civilization—clues to magnificent rulers and millions of vassals, a great capital city, building enterprises, wars, and then the strange collapse of everything. The finding of a hidden city is one of the high points of interest in the adventure.

Travel
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

COMPARATIVE NEUROLOGY—James W. Papez—*Crowell* (\$6). This is an introductory textbook on the nervous system and brain in various animals. Form, function and structural interpretation are given, with especial emphasis on the primates. The text is profusely illustrated.

Anatomy—Physiology
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES IN PERSONALITY—Morton Prince—*Sci-Art* (\$5). Students of abnormal psychology will be grateful to Dr. Prince for assembling in convenient form twenty-two of his papers and addresses. Some have appeared in the psychological journals, but others have, as he says, been buried in medical journals not ordinarily accessible to psychologists, and a few have been presented orally but never published. The volume includes papers on the well-known coconscious personality "Sally" and other multiple personality studies, papers on such topics as hypnotism, dream interpretation, experimental study of visions, association neuroses. The selection of material is sufficient to give, in Dr. Prince's opinion, the views that he has "felt justified in advancing as to the interpretations of well-known phenomena, the theories reached regarding various problems of human personality, and the principal data, derived from research, on which they are based."

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

WHY WE DO IT—Ed Wolff—*Macaulay* (\$2.50). Did you ever wonder why we write from left to right, why we send flowers to funerals, why we like the theater? And did you ever struggle to find satisfactory answers in weighty books or try to solve the riddles by your own astute reasoning processes? If so, you will enjoy this collection of human customs, foibles, and anachronisms. The style is breezy, slightly diffuse. The author has sensibly steered clear of controversial discussions by simply giving the explanation that he found to be most widely accepted.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929

ANCIENT PAGAN SYMBOLS—Elisabeth Goldsmith—*Putnam* (\$3). The author tells us that the ancients "did nothing in a meaningless way and in all their art expressions testified to their profound worship of Life." Such designs as the lotus, the tree of life, sacred birds, the sun, were carved and painted with the thoughtful purpose of symbolizing the life principle. To understand even a little of this symbolism of the ancient world is to find new depths of meaning in all old art and architecture and even in our modern friezes, textile designs, and household decorations.

Ethnology—Art
Science News-Letter, May 11, 1929