

First Glances at New Books

METHODS AND USES OF HYPNOSIS AND SELF-HYPNOSIS—Bernard Hollander—*Macmillan* (\$2.50). A London doctor, who has treated a wide range of human ills and problems by hypnosis, describes clearly and simply his methods and the results. Hypnotic treatment is usually resorted to by patients only after they have tried other more customary treatment. This physician believes that it has a valuable function to perform in giving aid in just such situations. Besides discussing the therapeutics of hypnosis, the author describes experiments with heightened sensibility and other strange phenomena produced in the hypnotic state.

Psychiatry
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

ALTAI-HIMALAYA—Nicholas Roerich—*Stokes* (\$5). Reading this fascinating book of travel notes on India, Tibet and other oriental lands is like hearing the artist-traveler talk, or think aloud, about his impressions and adventures. He tells a pointed little incident, or paints a word picture as pithy as a Chinese poem, and presto the conversation turns to another topic. But back of the thumbnail sketches and entertaining stories and comments Roerich deals in the fundamentals of the oriental world. Illustrated by nineteen reproductions of paintings by the author.

Travel
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

INTELLIGENT LIVING—Austen Fox Riggs—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$2). "My ambition in writing this book," Dr. Riggs states, "is to make mental hygiene function as practical common sense applied to everyday life." In accordance with this aim, the facts and suggestions presented by this well-known neuro-psychiatrist are simple and sensible. A very useful standard guide to balanced living.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

CHIMPANZEE TRANSLOCATION BY MEANS OF BOXES—Harold C. Bingham—*Johns Hopkins Press* (\$1.75). The task of understanding the nearest animal relatives of man is requiring endless patience, keen observation, and skillful handling of situations. Studies such as this reported by Dr. Bingham make us appreciate the technique for studying anthropoid apes that has been developed at the Institute of Psychology of Yale University. The report is published as one of the Comparative Psychology Monographs.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

SCIENCE FOR THE HOME MANAGER—Radio Publication No. 48—*University of Pittsburgh* (75 cents). This series of fourteen radio talks prepared by the Mellon Institute and given over Station KDKA deals with such subjects as bedding equipment, foods, carpets and draperies, kitchen equipment, heating, ventilation, the extermination of pests, and fire prevention. The bibliographies which formed a valuable feature of previous pamphlets of this series are mostly omitted in this case.

Home Economics
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

WHAT THE NEGRO THINKS—Robert Russa Moton—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$2.50). As the author points out, the world in general has known little about "what the Negro, himself, thinks of the experiences to which he is subjected because of his race and colour." This book, frankly written, by the principal of Tuskegee Institute, constitutes a sociological document which must be of great interest to all those who are trying to help the Negro race to make the most of itself. Besides that, it is a book well worth the attention of the general reader.

Sociology—Ethnology
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

FIELD BOOK OF WILD BIRDS AND THEIR MUSIC—F. Schuyler Mathews—*Putnam* (\$3.50). This is an unusually good handbook to identify our feathered neighbors, in that it gives the bird songs and calls as well as descriptions and pictures.

Ornithology
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

YOU AND THE DOCTOR—John B. Hawes II—*Houghton Mifflin* (\$2). Sane, practical advice on when and when not to call a doctor, what to tell him, what to keep in the family medicine chest and what various symptoms indicate. Dr. Hawes' book could profitably be read by every individual, well or sick.

Medicine
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

SEX DEVELOPMENT IN APES—Harold C. Bingham—*Johns Hopkins Press* (\$2.50). Another of Dr. Bingham's valuable contributions to comparative psychology, included in the Comparative Psychology Monographs series.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE

Natural History



Indian Pipe

In the deep woods, where the trees are thickest and the dead leaves dampest under foot, you will often find a ghostly clump of flowers growing. Their straight stems, four inches to a foot or so tall, turn abruptly downward at the summit in narrow, tubular flowers. Each stem bears but one flower, and its leaves are reduced to pale, nerveless little tabs.

"Indian pipe" is the name this plant has got from most of us. It does look a bit like a pipe, though its pallor and the mysterious way it has of growing in the least sunny places, and without the green garments that are the array of most plants, give it the air of belonging to some dead medicine-man, who followed the buffalo and the pronghorn to the Happy Hunting Grounds many moons ago.

The almost complete pallor of the Indian pipe has got it another name from persons of more macabre imagination; they call it "corpse plant". There is a superstition in some places that wherever one of these strange vegetables grows a dead body can be found lying beneath it.

That is true enough, though not in the way usually believed. The Indian pipe can not grow without a dead body, but the dead body is usually that of another plant. The lack of green coloring matter in stems and leaves marks the Indian pipe as one of those plants that must thrive on another's decay; it is what plant scientists call a saprophyte, a feeder on the dead.

The technical name of the Indian pipe is an example of the nice objectivity botanists can achieve if they have a mind to. It is called *Monotropa*, which comes from two Greek words meaning "one" and "turn". The single stem, with its single turn to bear the single downward-looking flower, sums up the whole story.

Science News-Letter, May 18, 1929