

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

MENTAL HYGIENE—Frankwood E. Williams—*American Library Association* (cloth, 50 cents; paper, 35 cents). This is No. 16 of the Reading with a Purpose Series, a guide to readers of the best books on various subjects. The author of the booklet is medical director of The National Committee for Mental Hygiene. The books recommended in this course of reading are: *Social Aspects of Mental Hygiene*, Frankwood E. Williams and others, Yale University Press, 1925, \$1.60; *The Problem Child at Home*, Mary Buell Sayles, Commonwealth Fund, Division of Publications, 578 Madison Avenue, N. Y., 1928, \$1.50; *Everyday Problems of the Everyday Child*, Douglas A. Thom, Appleton, 1927, \$2.50; *Outwitting Our Nerves*, Josephine A. Jackson and Helen M. Salisbury, Century, 1921, \$2.50; *Psychology of Insanity*, Bernard Hart, Macmillan, 1920, \$1.00.

Hygiene

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE STRUGGLE FOR HEALTH—Richard H. Hoffmann—*Liveright* (\$3.50). The descriptive title does not adequately indicate the intriguing nature of this history of medicine. An entirely new viewpoint and refreshing style will hold the reader's interest throughout. Dr. Hoffman has woven piquant, little-known incidents into his tale and his imagination adds many vivid, entertaining details which, if not strict history, are in accord with the generally accepted theories. The book can be highly recommended to the layman for pleasurable as well as profitable reading. The chapter headings give a good idea of the style: "From Myth and Magic to Moses", "Office Hours in Rome", "The Skeleton Comes Out of the Closet", "Heart Interest and Circulation", "Science Lays Its Egg", and "The Kindest Cut of All" are a few.

Medical History

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

COMMUNITY HYGIENE—Dean Franklin Smiley and Adrian Gordon Gould—*Macmillan* (\$2). This book is designed for college students. The authors hope to give the leading citizens of tomorrow a comprehensive outline of some of the important problems they will face.

Hygiene

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE ROAD TO OREGON—W. J. Ghent—*Longmans, Green*—(\$5). The wild and woolly West has been so befogged by fiction and so overplayed by local patriotism that it is time that the searchlight of a sincere and cautious historian should be turned upon this important and misinterpreted period of our national history. Mr. Ghent is just the man to write "A Chronicle of the Great Trail", for he is a Westerner by birth and he combines a sympathetic appreciation of the hardships and triumphs of the pioneers with a sharp, critical judgment that gives him the power to pierce through the exaggerations of the dime-novel type of biographers and travelers. He has gone back to the fundamental facts wherever possible, giving actual names and figures of the pony express and stagecoach traffic, and enlivening the narrative by the description and pictures of contemporaries. We owe it to the Oregon trail that we now have a nation that stretches from sea to sea, and its importance should be recognized in the teaching of history. The younger generation should not be left to get their idea of the national highway from movies, like "The Covered Wagon" with its ridiculous prairie school-rooms and its scandalous caricature of Jim Bridger. Clubs and classes all along the line from Independence, Mo., to Vancouver will find this a good book for their next season's study.

History

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE SOVIET UNION—*Soviet Union Information Bureau* (\$1.50). As an up-to-date handbook to the Soviet Union, still the great unknown in politics and national relations, this book performs a service. Scientifically inclined persons will be particularly interested in the chapters on patents, public health, education, science and the society for cultural relations.

Geography

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

CIRCLING SOUTH AMERICA—Isabel Anderson—*Marshall Jones* (\$4). A pleasantly written account of a voyage with many inland excursions by a seasoned traveler. Mrs. Anderson takes a special interest in official and diplomatic aspects of the countries visited and her own past experiences as the wife of a diplomat abroad enable her to present this side of South American life from a vantage point.

Geography

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

ENGLISH AND SCIENCE—Philip B. McDonald—*Van Nostrand*—(\$2). A handbook devoted to the rare art of putting scientific papers into good English, meaning by that, making the meaning clear and convincing. The author, who teaches English in the College of Engineering of New York University, gives directions for presenting reports, oral and written, how to write good letters, how to avoid obscurity, pomposity and ornateness, and how to acquire "the difficult art of punctuation", and adds suggestions as to cultural readings in the history of science and invention.

General Science

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RELIGION AND SCIENCE—John William Draper—*Appleton* (\$1). This ranks with White's "History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom" and Lecky's "History of Rationalism in Europe" in interest and is as timely as when it was first published fifty-five years ago, although some of the statements of all three of these pioneers in this field need correction through the researches of later historians such as Sarton. This edition in abridged form fits handily into the pocket.

History of Science

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

NOBEL, DYNAMITE AND PEACE—Ragnar Sohlman and Henrik Schück—*Cosmopolitan* (\$5). It is a hopeful commentary on literature and life that we have such a biography as this. No one can even glance through the life of Alfred Nobel without being inspired to do something for science. Perhaps his life properly known will promote science more widely than his prizes.

General Science

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

PEOPLES OF ASIATIC RUSSIA—Waldemar Jochelson—*American Museum of Natural History* (\$2.50). Ethnologists and those interested in allied sciences will be grateful to Prof. Jochelson for this valuable handbook. There are many racial elements in the region with which the book deals, but the author patiently straightens out the complexities and gives us the facts of population, migrations, languages, somatology, customs, art, etc., about each group. There are 52 illustrations and a number of maps.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

First Glances at New Books—Continued

TREES AND FORESTS OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES—E. J. Hanzlik—*Author* (\$2.50). Although written primarily for lumbermen and timber owners, this book can serve a useful purpose in the high school or college library and in the hands of any one who has occasion to walk the western woods.

Dendrology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

WHIP SNAKES AND RACERS—A. I. Ortenburger—*U. of Mich.* (\$6). A detailed monograph on two neglected and useful serpents, about which many tall and mostly slanderous tales have been told. The half-tone illustrations are for the most part above criticism, and the distribution maps are clear and definite.

Herpetology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

A HANDBOOK OF THE DRAGONFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA—J. G. Needham and Hortense B. Heywood—*Thomas* (\$7). This book is not designed for the elementary student, but for the entomologist who is "going into" the dragonflies in some detail. For such an one it will be indispensable. Its synopses are clear and terse, and its line illustrations of analytical characters are gratifyingly numerous and well drawn.

Entomology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

TYPICAL FLIES: A PHOTOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF DIPTERA—F. K. Pearce—*Cambridge Univ. Pr.* (\$3.25). A collection of 162 half-tone illustrations, mostly of typical dipterous insects, but including a few habitat pictures. This book will be extremely useful to the dipterologist.

Entomology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

ADDITIONS TO THE PALAEOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC COAST AND GREAT BASIN REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA—Remington Kellogg and others—*Carnegie* (\$3). A group of palaeontological papers on various subjects: a fossil whale, a fossil bear, fossil plants, and the geology and palaeontology of the Crooked River Basin.

Palaontology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE RATE OF LIVING—Raymond Pearl—*Knopf* (\$3.50). An exact and critical study of life duration, conducted with *Drosophila melanogaster* as the "sample organism".

Biology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

FIELD BOOK OF INSECTS—F. E. Lutz—*Putnam* (\$2.50). A conveniently arranged book containing notes and keys to help in the identification of insects, as well as splendid illustrations, many in color. An entomological index, and a habitat and plant index make it a useful book for any entomologist to slip in his pocket.

Entomology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE FISHES OF THE SERIES CAPRIFORMES, SHIPPIFORMES, AND SQUAMIPENNES, COLLECTED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF FISHERIES STEAMER "ALBATROSS", CHIEFLY IN PHILIPPINE SEAS AND ADJACENT WATERS—H. W. Fowler and B. A. Bean—*Govt. Printing Off.* (60c). Of interest to students of systematic ichthyology.

Ichthyology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY—*Government Printing Office* (\$2.75). Five papers accompany this report: "The Osage Tribe: Two Versions of the Child-naming Rite," by Francis La Flesche; "Wawenock Myth Texts from Maine," by Frank G. Speck; "Native Tribes and Dialects of Connecticut, a Mohegan-Pequot Diary," by Frank G. Speck; "Picuris Children's Stories," by John P. Harrington and Helen H. Roberts; "Iroquoian Cosmology—Second Part," by J. N. B. Hewitt.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

POTS AND PANS—H. S. Harrison—*Morrow* (\$1). The history of ceramics, its development in primitive camps and in centers of civilization, is the latest addition to the series of little books on "The Beginning of Things."

Ethnology—Technology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

NEW YEAR'S DAY—S. H. Hooke—*Morrow* (\$1). The evolution of calendar systems in various parts of the world explained concisely. Another of the series on "The Beginning of Things."

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

QUEER FISH—C. M. Yonge—*Brentano's* (\$2.50). A book about British fish and fisheries, but inclusive enough to be well worth a place on the biological reading table on this side of the Atlantic.

Biology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE LAST HOME OF MYSTERY—E. Alexander Powell—*Century* (\$4). Nepal, hidden in a pocket of the Himalayas, jealously guards its independence, and has been visited by few Europeans. It has magnificent temples to weird gods, and a civilization like that of India. Colonel Powell has Marco Polo's knack of seeing and relating astounding tales—which are true.

Geography
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

PLEASANT DAYS IN SPAIN—Nancy Cox-McCormack—*Sears* (\$3.50). An intimate, chatty style distinguishes this from the average travel book. One sees—not only scenery and architecture, but the hospitable, leisurely people of this colorful country. It is interesting to note that King Alfonso awarded to the author the cross of merit in recognition of this book.

Geography
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY—Jenks Cameron—*Johns Hopkins Press* (\$2). The Institute for Government Research has performed an important function in gathering into accessible volumes the histories, activities, organizations, and laws relating to the various government bureaus and establishments. Birds, animals, and other wild life come under the guardianship of the Biological Survey; how this organization has functioned and what it has done form an important chapter in American science.

Biology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

THE BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING—Laurence M. Schmeckebier—*Johns Hopkins Press* (\$1.50). Everyone has use for the product of the bureau analyzed and described in this historical and organizational summary compiled by the Institute for Government Research.

Government
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929

PARENTS AND THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD—William E. Blatz and Helen Bott—*Morrow* (\$3). Written for the parents of the normal child and based on first-hand experience with normal children is this guide for training the young child. Part I is primarily intended for parents and Part II for professional workers. Part III contains the chart and record forms in use at the St. George's School for Child Study. The book will also be helpful for child study groups to follow.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 25, 1929