

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BITUMINOUS COAL—2 vols—*Carnegie Institute of Technology*, Pittsburgh, Pa. (\$15). The Second International Conference on Bituminous Coal of 1928 surpassed the unprecedented success of the First Conference of two years before in the number of distinguished speakers and the importance of the papers. In the 2000 pages of these two volumes are to be found the most recent and reliable reports of all phases of the coal industry as seen by leading scientists and industrialists in this field from Germany, France, England, United States and other countries. Besides, over a hundred papers and addresses are included the discussions by the experts present. Among the vital topics considered are: pulverized coal, synthetic petroleum, rubber and alcohol, low-temperature carbonization, Claude's engine for getting power from tropical seawater, the utilization of lignite, the fixation of nitrogen, coal washing by flotation, automotive fuels, the liquefaction of coal, water power versus coal power, the fertilizer industry and coal-tar chemicals. Any producer or user of coal or power on a large scale would find this book of practical value.

Engineering

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

POLAR MOLECULES—P. Debye—*Chemical Catalog Company* (\$3.50). The first and only book giving a complete account of the new and rapidly developing theory of polar molecules written by Professor Debye of the University of Leipzig. The Debye equation announced in 1912 was one of the most important contributions to what is now called "The Third Law of Thermodynamics" and the quantum theory in its most modern form has extended its scope.

Physics

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

PEEPS AT MEN OF THE OLD STONE AGE—James Baikie—*Black Co., London* (\$1). A simply written account of the world in which our primitive ancestors lived. The story progresses from the Ape-man of Java past the first Englishman, the horse hunters of Solutre, and various other types, ending with the dawn of the New Stone Age.

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

THE BRITISH IN TROPICAL AFRICA—I. L. Evans—*Cambridge University Press* (\$4.50). The British dependencies in Africa are more than fifty times the size of England. This empire is populated by forty billion natives while the white population is no greater than that of Cambridge, England. How Great Britain achieved such sway in the dark continent is told in this volume by a British historian.

History

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

THE COWBIRDS. A STUDY IN THE BIOLOGY OF SOCIAL PARASITISM—Herbert Friedmann—*Charles C. Thomas* (\$6.). Several years of intensive observation and research in both North and South America have gone into the making of this book on cowbirds. The presentation of facts about bird parasitism clears up a previously most fertile field of misinformation.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

AMERICAN ROCK GARDENS—Stephen F. Hamblin—*Orange Judd Publishing*—(\$1.25). Making things grow among one's own rocks is an increasingly popular variation of American gardening. Suggestions and directions are contained in this small book written for the amateur.

Horticulture

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM HANDBOOK 7—Aretas A. Saunders—*University of the State of New York* (50c). Anyone will appreciate the accuracy and complexity of avian music after reading this comprehensive summary of bird song.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

STUDIES IN TROPICAL WASPS—THEIR HOSTS AND ASSOCIATES—Francis X. Williams—*Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association* (\$2). A technical treatise on an important group of tropical insects.

Entomology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

THE HOME GARDEN HANDBOOKS—F. F. Rockwell—*Macmillan* (\$1). No home is really complete without a lawn and the essentials of good grass in front or back yard are explained in this handbook.

Horticulture

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

FISHES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY—Samuel F. Hildebrand and William C. Schroeder—*Department of Commerce* (\$1.50). Chesapeake Bay is one of the important fishing grounds of the Atlantic coast and government fish authorities have prepared this systematic catalog of its fish as the result of years of study.

Ichthyology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

GRAIN THROUGH THE AGES—Grace T. Hallock and Thomas D. Wood, M. C.—*Quaker Oats Company* (free). This educational pamphlet of the large breakfast food manufacturer in spite of its over emphasis on oats, will prove interesting and instructive to school children to whom it will be distributed.

Botany

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORE BIRDS—Arthur Cleveland Bent—*Smithsonian Institution* (\$1). Whither the birds of the seashore are going and whence they come is detailed in this authoritative treatise. There is much more known about some birds than about some people.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

FROM THE GREEKS TO DARWIN—Henry Fairfield Osborn—*Scribners* (\$2.50). This history of evolution is a classic. Dr. Osborn has re-studied the twenty-four century period of evolutionary progress that culminated in Darwin.

Evolution

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

THE ARCTIC RESCUE—Einar Lundborg—*Viking Press* (\$3). How Nobile was saved as told by the pilot of the Swedish rescue expedition.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929

FAMOUS DIAMONDS—Oliver C. Farrington—*Field Museum* (25c). The history and legends of more than a score of the greatest diamonds, as related in this booklet, make more interesting reading than most fiction. Rulers and nations strove for the possession of these gems, and in most cases records of their changing fortunes is complete.

Mineralogy

Science News-Letter, June 15, 1929