

First Glances at New Books

BIRDS OF THE PACIFIC COAST—W. A. Eliot—*Putnam* (\$3.50). One hundred and eighteen birds common to the Pacific coast and British Columbia are described, with a brief account of their distribution and habitat, and over fifty color plates. Bird lovers west of the Rockies will want this book, written especially for them.

Ornithology
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

PATIENT SCIENTISTS AND OTHER VERSE—Bertha Gerneaux Woods—*University Press, Maryland* (75c). These are sweet, intimate little verses about flowers, children, religion—and one, as the title indicates, about scientists.

Poetry
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

THE SPANISH PIONEERS AND THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS—Charles F. Lummis—*McClurg* (\$3). A new edition of a book relating a fascinating and sometimes neglected chapter of history of the Americas. Had Mr. Lummis been with the conquistadores, he could have had no more enthusiasm for their accomplishments.

History
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

FIELD BOOK OF AMERICAN TREES AND SHRUBS—F. Schuyler Mathews—*Putnam* (\$3.50). To know our native trees is an easy and delightful pastime with a handbook such as this for reference. It is a concise description of species common throughout the United States, profusely illustrated.

Botany
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

SCIENCE AND PERSONALITY—William Brown—*Yale Univ. Press* (\$3). Based on the fifth series of the Dwight H. Terry foundation lectures at Yale on "Religion in the Light of Science and Philosophy." The author covers a wide range of problems, such as religion and health, suggestion and will, mental analysis and psychotherapy, instinct, sentiment, and value. Two chapters are devoted to personality and psychical research.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

GENERAL SCIENCE—W. Dean Pulvermacher and Charles H. Vosburgh—*Globe Book Co.* (educational price: 50 cents). A series of practical and well contrived experiments and questions to go with a course in General Science.

General Science
Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

Larch Canker Fight

Phytopathology

Encouraged by a Congressional appropriation of \$35,000, experts of the Department of Agriculture have outlined a comprehensive campaign to stamp out larch canker, a new tree disease similar to chestnut blight, which threatens timber valued at more than \$3,000,000,000.

Dr. Haven Metcalf, in charge of the Office of Forest Pathology and generalissimo of scientific forces battling the disease, has announced that practically all of the 3,100 trees known to be infected have been destroyed. These trees were located in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and comprise, in addition to larches, specimens of the Douglas fir and yellow pine.

An army of men throughout the United States have been instructed to be on the lookout for the disease and have received photographs and descriptions to facilitate their search. This army includes all officers of the U. S. Forest Service, inspection officers of the Department of Agriculture and State officials. These men will report immediately where stands of the yellow pine and Douglas fir are located, particularly east of the Mississippi.

In addition, an accurate check is being made on importations of the three species infected, since the disease came in on trees from Europe prior to enactment of the plant quarantine law in 1918. The customs records are being combed to find where the trees came from so that the department may trace the trees to where they were planted in the United States.

Five men are now working on laboratory studies of the disease, and later in the season this corps will be increased to twenty. Two scientists, Dr. E. P. Meinecke and Dr. Glenn G. Hahn, have been conducting studies of larch canker in Europe, and conferring with experts abroad. The laboratory studies are extremely complicated, owing to the fact that the fungus is one of a group of more than 100 species, whose characters have not been well separated and which are difficult to differentiate.

Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929

The average farm woman lives seven miles from a doctor and 18 miles from a hospital, according to a recent investigation.

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Tulip-Tree

The tulip trees are full of flowers now—beautiful yellow goblets tinted with a little red and green—and the bees are happy in them. The gorgeous magnolias of the South do not venture very far north, but the tulip tree, a fairly near relative, upholds the family traditions through a wide stretch of country well above the Mason and Dixon line.

"Fiddle-tree" is another name it has been called, because of the peculiar leaves with their arched base and in-cut sides. And the heavy, rough bark, like the bark of cottonwood, has given it the name "tulip poplar", or even "poplar" in other sections. Its scientific name, *Liriodendron*, is Greek for "lily tree." All these cognomens testify to the good esteem in which this fine tree is held wherever it grows.

It is worthy of cultivation as a street and ornamental tree even outside its present native range, for even after the flowers are past its symmetrical crown of deep green, glossy leaves still make a fine showing. And the tree is quite hardy even out into the prairie states. Its only drawback in these windy stretches is that winter storms will sometimes break off branches, for the wood is short and rather brittle.

Though this weakness of its wood precludes it from consideration as a first-rank hardwood, the tulip tree still has a useful place as a timber producer. Its fiber is even and smooth and rather soft, which makes it nice material for the veneer knife. For this reason, and because it is a fast grower, the tulip tree is being cultivated to some extent on cut-over lands in the Ohio Valley, as a regular timber crop.

Science News-Letter, June 22, 1929