

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

SCIENCE IN LITERATURE—Frederick Houk Law—*Harper* (\$1.20). The College Entrance Requirements in English now require "a collection of scientific writings (about 150 pages)". No one is better qualified to prepare such a collection of essays than Dr. Law, since he is head of the Department of English in the Stuyvesant High School, New York City, and has been one of the pioneers in the once unpopular though now prevailing movement to bring English teaching into the current of modern thought. He strikes the keynote of the endeavor in his preface where he says: "This is not a textbook in Science; it is a textbook in Literature. The subject matter concerns Science in various phases, but the method is the method of literature, the method of inspiration, the method of wonder, of beauty, and even of awe." The essays comprised in the volume are: "Secret of the Charm of Flowers" by William Henry Hudson; "The Insects Are Winning," by William Atherton DuPuy; "Secrets of the Ocean," by William Beebe; "The Moon," by Garrett Putnam Serviss; "The Importance of Dust," by Alfred Russel Wallace; "The Romance of the Diamond," by Sir William Crookes; "Niagara," by John Tyndall; "On a Piece of Chalk," by Thomas Henry Huxley; "Chemistry in Everyday Life," by Edwin Emery Slosson; "Chlorin," by Jean-Henri Fabre; "The Discovery of Radium," by Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie; "The Atomic Theory," by Edward Neville da Costa Andrade; "Autobiography of an Electron," by Charles Robert Gibson; "A Drop of Water," by Henshaw Ward; "A New Light in the World," by William Henry Meadowcroft; "Electricity and Civilization," by Charles Proteus Steinmetz; "Modern Physics," by Robert Andrews Millikan; "The Scientific Revolution," by James Harvey Robinson; "Design in Creation," by Sir Oliver Lodge, and "Pivotal Figures of Science," by Arthur Elmore Bostwick. Each essay is annotated with biographical and explanatory footnotes and supplied with a list of books for further reading and topics for classroom discussion or written reports.

General Science
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

OUR WONDERFUL UNIVERSE—Clarence Augustus Chant—*World Book Co.* (\$1.52). This little book by the professor of astrophysics at the University of Toronto was reviewed in these pages previously when it appeared in a Canadian edition. It is now in an American edition, and it is to be hoped that it will have the popularity that it well deserves. It can be recommended to anyone wanting a simple, beginning book on astronomy.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

THE EXCAVATION OF ARMAGEDDON—Clarence S. Fisher—*Univ. of Chicago Press* (\$1). The famous field of Armageddon is at last being systematically investigated, and the great mound has yielded important traces of old cultures and battles. This progress report describes the excavation of three strata, going back to the Israelite period of the ninth century B. C.

Archæology
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES—Charles A. and Mary R. Beard—*Macmillan* (\$1.96). It is becoming fashionable in the writing of school book histories to include advances in science and technology upon equal footing with modern education and manufacturing, all subjects which in past years have been overpowered in the school room by generals and politicians. Significant is the statement of the authors in the preface of this revised edition that they do not now consider it necessary to make undue prefatory emphasis of the adequate treatment of social and economic aspects of our history that this book contains. A proselyting scientist might object to the inclusion in the book when evolution is discussed: "Some Christians, usually known as Fundamentalists, strenuously opposed such theories on the ground that they were contrary to the Bible or were at best mere guesses that could not be proved." Or when the progress of science during the last half century is discussed, some may object to this indictment: "Nevertheless, in spite of its splendid facilities for work, the United States lagged behind the leading nations of the Old World in the realm of pure science."

History
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

CREATIVE IMAGINATION—June E. Downey—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.75). In these "Studies of the Psychology of Literature," Professor Downey of the University of Wyoming opens up an almost unexplored field, which she is peculiarly qualified to penetrate because she combines in herself three requisites; she is a poet; she has been a teacher of English literature; and she is a research psychologist. So, when she tackles a subject like the sensations of smell and taste excited by a piece of poetry, or the color and music of a "word-in-itself", or a projection of the unconscious as manifested in the creative dreams of the poet and scientist, or the methods of stimulating the adolescent imagination, she is dealing with subjects which she has personally investigated in her classroom and laboratory. "Creative Imagination" is a book that will be of especial interest and practical value to the psychologist, to the teacher or writer of literature, and to all who are interested in the action of art on human emotions.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929
ACHIEVEMENT TESTS IN THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES—V. A. C. Henmon—*Macmillan* (\$1). The aim of the research reported here was to build achievement tests that might become standard. Tests thus developed have proved reliable and valid instruments of measurement on a nation-wide basis, the report states. Equally important, norms of achievement in modern languages have been established for school and college. The work was part of the program conducted by the Modern Foreign Language Study and the Canadian Committee on Modern Languages.

Education
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929
SOAP BUBBLES—Ellen Beers McGowan—*Macmillan* (80c). Children who enjoy this book for its story-book style, will unconsciously learn a great deal of popular science.

Physics
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929
PRODUCTIVITY OF LABOR IN NEWSPAPER PRINTING—S. Kjaer—*Government Printing Office* (50c). An economic study like this is interesting not only to the newspaper publisher but to anyone concerned with the tremendous flow of cellulose and carbon that hourly takes information to the public.

Printing
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

First Glances at New Books—Continued

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—Webster Prentiss True—*Smithsonian Institution Series, Inc.* (50 Church Street, New York City). The American people have now an opportunity for the first time to realize the extent and variety of the public services of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. These 12 volumes beautifully illustrated in color and monochrome are prepared and published by subscription for the purpose of increasing the endowment of the Institution. The first volume is largely historical beginning with the unexpected bequest of James Smithson, an Englishman who had never been in the United States and had never manifested any special interest in that country. So it was a surprise when, in 1835, the Secretary of State received a letter from a London notary informing him that the United States was entitled to half a million dollars "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men," and five years later there was delivered at the Philadelphia mint 105 bags of sovereigns, eight shillings and sixpence. From this has developed the National Museum, Bureau of American Ethnology, National Zoological Garden, Astrophysical Observatory, National Gallery of Arts, International Exchange Service, International Catalogue of Scientific Literature, Freer Art Gallery, and the numerous technical and popular publications in all fields of science that are accessible to the American people in their public libraries.

General Science
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

THE ROMANCE OF MODERN EXPLORATION—Fitzhugh Green—*American Library Association* (cloth, 50 cents; paper, 35 cents). The books recommended in this Reading With A Purpose Series are: The Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century, A. W. Greeley; The South Pole, Roald Amundsen; The Adventure of Wrangel Island, Vilhjalmur Stefansson; Skyward, Richard E. Byrd; Beneath Tropic Seas, William Beebe; On the Trail of Ancient Man, Roy Chapman Andrews.

Exploration
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

COREGONID FISHES OF THE GREAT LAKES—Walter Koelz—*Govt. Printing Office* (\$1.10). A monograph covering the scientific aspect of one of the most important of American freshwater fisheries.

Ichthyology
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

THE SUN AND THE WELFARE OF MAN—Charles Greeley Abbot—*Smithsonian Institution Series*. This volume, the second of the sumptuous Smithsonian Scientific Series, is likely to prove one of the most popular of the twelve, since it is written by the Secretary of the Institution and concerns a subject in which we are all interested. Each will find his own as he opens it. The housewife will be struck by the picture of the solar cooker which Dr. Abbot set up for his summer home on Mt. Hamilton, California. The attention of the mother will be drawn to that of the children cured of rickets by the ultraviolet rays. The horticulturist will stop to consider the effect of differences in the wave-length or duration of light in stimulating the growth of plants. The engineer will be surprised to learn of the many projects for a solar engine that will take the place of coal. And besides these practical aspects of the book every intelligent reader will be interested in learning how sunlight can be measured and analyzed.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE—Otis William Caldwell and Francis Day Curtis—*Ginn* (\$1.68). It has been found exceedingly and unexpectedly difficult to find a satisfactory textbook for the course in general science which is nowadays being required in nearly all the high schools. This newest candidate to enter the lists should have a good chance for the championship because it has been prepared by two experts in the field, who have had the use of the studies, experimentation and experience of recent years. Dr. Caldwell is director of Institute of School Experimentation of Teachers College, Columbia, and Dr. Curtis is head of the department of general science and biology in the University High School of Michigan. The selection of topics is based upon a synthesis of eighteen investigations as to the most suitable subject matter of such a course. The vocabulary is almost entirely confined to the 5,000 most frequently used words in the English language as determined by Thorndike. The text is written in a simple and interesting style, the illustrations are drawings designed to point out a particular fact, and the questions and exercises are contrived to be most useful to the student and teacher.

General Science
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

OUR CHANGING CIVILIZATION—John Herman Randall, Jr.—*Stokes* (\$3). It is rare to find a book where such great learning is carried with a current of such a readable style. Professor Randall sweeps over a series of centuries in the same effortless effect as any one of us would in telling of what happened yesterday. He is one of the few philosophers who has come to appreciate the fact that the advent of applied science, machine power and mass production is an unprecedented factor in civilization that is bound to transform our social forms, religion, ethics and metaphysics. He does not presume to prophesy in detail the form this new civilization must assume, but presents with great pungency and wit the signs of the times that show the inevitability of the change.

Philosophy
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

SUNRAYS AND HEALTH—Ronald Millar with E. E. Free—*McBride* (\$1.50). There is no question now exciting more general popular interest than the utilization of rays of various sorts for the improvement of health, but the public is confused by the various fadists and fakers who make extravagant claims for every new thing and by the rival manufacturers of artificial ray lamps. This little book, giving a sane survey of the subject at its present stage, in non-technical terms, therefore, serves a useful purpose.

Therapy
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

WHAT ABOUT THE YEAR 2000?—*Federated Societies on Planning and Parks*. (\$1). It is encouraging that some one is looking forward to the year 2000. Land is one of the most fundamental resources that must be available to the present and the future population of this country. This study, prepared under the direction of a committee sponsored by five societies interested in parks, cities and the conditions under which we live, is the trail towards the preservation of our land areas for posterity.

Economics
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929

DIRECTED STUDY GUIDES FOR KNOWLTON'S INTRODUCTION TO WORLD GEOGRAPHY—Alma Leonhardy, Grace W. Hogoboom and Elizabeth Van Patten—*Macmillan* (48c). A booklet aimed at the more painless administration of geography to the pupils.

Geography
Science News-Letter, July 13, 1929