

First Glances at New Books

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF RESEARCH—Issued by the National Research Council of Canada (\$3 a year). Dated May, 1929, the first number of a new scientific journal from our sister commonwealth has a most promising look. It is designed, the foreword states, to make room for the more prompt publication of papers resulting from the scientific activities of the National Research Council of Canada and of the Canadian universities and other scientific agencies, many of which have had to wait long periods for their turn in foreign journals. The issue at first will be bi-monthly, but it is anticipated that monthly publication will be undertaken in the near future. The first issue contains papers on rust resistance in wheat, the hydration of aluminates of calcium, anti-tuberculosis vaccination and the effects of ultra-violet light on marine organisms.

General Science

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

(1) THROUGH MOUNTAIN, LAKE, AND GORGE WITH THE GEOLOGISTS; (2) TREES AND FLOWERS OF SPRING—*University of Pittsburgh* (60 cents each). These are two paper-bound books consisting of radio talks given by members of the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, and constituting numbers 51 and 52 of the interesting popular series that has been growing at the University by this means.

General Science

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

THE ROMANCE OF MODERN EXPLORATION—Fitzhugh Green—*American Library Association* (35c.). The co-author, with Charles Lindbergh, of "We", gives us a glimpse of the most interesting modern adventures into the unknown parts of the globe.

Geography

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

THE CHILD, THE FAMILY, AND THE COURT—PART I, GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS—Bernard Flexner, Reuben Oppenheimer, and Katherine F. Lenroot—*Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor* (16c.). A study of the administration of justice in the field of domestic relations. It contains an excellent biography on the problems of the family and on juvenile courts and delinquency.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

MENTAL HYGIENE—Frankwood E. Williams, M. D.—*American Library Association* (35c.). A brief introduction to mental hygiene by an authority on psychiatry. It contains a guide to five other readable books on this subject.

Psychiatry

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THE UNITED STATES IN RECENT TIMES—Frederic L. Paxson—*American Library Association* (35c.). A guide to some of the best books on our own country, arranged to outline a consecutive reading course.

History

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THE EUROPE OF OUR DAY—Herbert Adams Gibbons—*American Library Association* (35c.). Gives the reader a background for the understanding of events happening in Europe today.

History

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

PREHISTORIC MAN—George Grant MacCurdy—*American Library Association* (35c.). Introducing John Doe to his ancestors of the Stone, Bronze, and other bygone ages.

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

THE FERNS OF TENNESSEE—W. A. Anderson, Jr.—*University of Tennessee Press*. With the development of the first large National Park east of the Rockies in the Great Smoky Mountains of Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina, the botany of Tennessee assumes a new importance for naturalists the country over. Mr. Anderson has done a service in getting information about the particularly rich fern flora of this region into compact and easily handled form.

Botany

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

SOME TRIBAL ORIGINS, LAWS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE BALKANS—M. E. Durham—*Macmillan* (\$6.50). The last stronghold of the tribal system in Europe has been the Balkans. Here even today prevail customs, political organizations, and superstitions that sound to our incredulous ears like strange bits of life from old barbaric Europe or even ideas from primitive natives of the South Seas. It is fortunate that the material in this volume has been collected before the old regime vanishes, and that the task was undertaken with such thoroughness. The author is a British woman.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, July 27, 1929

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Black Nightshade

"Deadly nightshade" popular opinion makes it in many sections, but botanists are more non-committal and call it merely "black nightshade". It can be found now in almost any open, weedy field: a straggling plant with leaves like tomato or potato leaves, only thinner and smoother, and star-shaped white flowers like potato flowers, only smaller and narrower-pointed. These will be followed by small round berries, green at first, then purplish black, filled with pulp and tiny seeds.

There is at least one part of the country where the black nightshade is not regarded as deadly. That is out on the plains of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas. The early settlers in these hard lands had few fruits, and their good wives experimented with all of the native berries the country afforded. They very soon learned that the black berries of the nightshade were not only not poisonous but that they made very good pies and jam. Though that region is more settled now, and cultivated fruits are plentiful, the art of nightshade preserves has not yet departed.

It is not unnatural that the nightshade should yield edible fruits. That is the privilege of many members of its family. The tomato is an outstanding example, and the ground cherry a somewhat less conspicuous one. The potato is another nightshade food though here the underground stems rather than the fruits are eaten.

It is notable, however, that while this plant family yields good food products, its leaves are frequently exceedingly poisonous. Even potato and tomato leaves have been known to cause serious poisoning in stock, and the poison of the tobacco leaf, in very dilute form, is the cause of the comfort derived by the smoker from his "weed".

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