

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

GENERAL COLLEGE CHEMISTRY—Joseph A. Babor—*Crowell* (\$3.75). Most school textbooks stick close to the beaten track and it is hard to distinguish a new one from any of the old ones. But here is a chemistry that is different. Instead of fending off the student from any acquaintance of atoms and electrons until these have been duly introduced in the logical or chronological development of the subject, Prof. Babor has adopted the reverse tactics of attack. He starts in boldly with the most modernistic theories of the structure of the atom, electron shells, octet-orbits, covalence, non-polar bonds, which gives him the advantage of using these conceptions in the interpretation of phenomena all the way through the descriptive part.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

LABORATORY MANUAL IN GENERAL COLLEGE CHEMISTRY—Joseph A. Babor and Alexander Lehrman—*Crowell* (\$2). A laboratory manual to accompany Dr. Babor's "General College Chemistry", reviewed above. The experiments are gauged from simple to difficult, and as there is much more material than can be covered in a single year, the instructor has a wide choice before him.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

BEGINNING CHEMISTRY—Fletcher, Smith and Harrow—*American Book Company* (\$1.60). A clear, concise and interesting elementary textbook; well illustrated with neat drawings and provided with references to supplementary reading and questions devised to stimulate thinking. The author has wisely included much practical chemistry on such topics as paints, foods, and nutrition.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

TELEVISION—H. Horton Sheldon and Edgar Norman Grisewood—*Van Nostrand* (\$2.75). In preparing this first American book on television, the authors have gathered material on the chief British and American methods, including Baird, Ives, Alexanderson, Jenkins and Goldsmith, all of which is incorporated in its pages. Thus it tells of the present crude methods which foreshadow the perfection that will undoubtedly come in the next few years.

Television

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

SOME NOTES ON BOOKBINDING—Douglas Cockerell—*Oxford* (\$2.50). Whoever is interested in books (and that probably includes every reader of the NEWS-LETTER) will be interested in this little account of their bindings. Mr. Cockerell speaks from a background of long practical experience and tells how books are bound and what to look for in a good binding. Incidentally, the book itself is a splendid example of the best work of the art of which he writes.

Library Science

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

WORLD HISTORY TODAY—Albert E. McKinley, Arthur C. Howland, and Matthew L. Dann—*American Book Company* (\$1.92). World histories written with a regard for the part that science and industry have played in world progress are typical products of this generation. This history is intended for class use.

History

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

SHABIK'ESHCHEE VILLAGE—Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr.—*Smithsonian Institution* (\$1). An important contribution to the knowledge of the prehistoric Basket Maker Indians, who inhabited the Southwest before the coming of the Pueblos. The village excavated by Mr. Roberts, in the Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, showed definitely the type of houses in which the Basket Makers lived. Evidence also was found indicating that the transition between the Basket Maker and Pueblo culture was an orderly one, with no sharp break.

Archaeology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

RACE AND POPULATION PROBLEMS—H. G. Duncan—*Longmans, Green & Co.* (\$2.50). Everyone with an eye to history or posterity will be interested in this comprehensive volume on all aspects of the population problem.

Sociology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

HOW ANIMALS FIND THEIR WAY ABOUT—Etienne Rabaud—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$2.75). A translation of an account originally published in French, of critical experiments and observations on the vexed and much-discussed questions of the direction sense and homing instincts of animals.

Comparative Psychology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

PRINCIPLES OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY—Oran Raber—*Macmillan* (\$3). A few years ago teaching plant physiologists complained, justifiably, that there was a great dearth of text books in their field which might be offered to beginning graduates or to upper-class undergraduates. This situation is now in a fair way toward being remedied, and Dr. Raber's book is not the least among the contributions toward this happy end.

Plant Physiology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

COTTON AND OTHER USEFUL FIBERS—Nellie B. Allen—*Ginn* (80c.). An inexpensive but really attractively gotten-up and illustrated book giving a condensed and up-to-date account of several of the principal textiles.

Textiles

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO—Florence Merriam Bailey—*New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish* (\$5). A complete and thorough-going account of the birds of one of our most interesting faunal regions, supplying a long-felt lack. The author makes a most happy combination of scholarliness and readability; and the color plates by Allan Brooks and the monochrome pictures by the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes add greatly to the value of the book. It is a volume that every ornithologist will want to add to his library.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

THINGS ANY BOY CAN MAKE—Joseph Leeming—*Century* (\$2). This book contains instructions and diagrams for making 101 simple and amusing articles or toys. It is designed especially for younger boys, for none of the things described requires unusual skill, and the tools called for are of the simplest—scissors, knife, paper, cardboard, elastic bands and other implements always on hand in the home.

General Science

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY—Katherine L. Keelor—*Macmillan* (\$1.75). Simple electrical experiments, told in easy language for children in the third and fourth grades. With the aid of this book, they can make bells, buzzers and telegraph instruments.

Electricity

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

Man and His World

General Science

MAN AND HIS WORLD—Northwestern University Essays in Contemporary Thought, Edited by Baker Brownell — Van Nostrand (12 volumes \$19.25). Northwestern University is utilizing all the modern means of approach in the extension of its educational work. Prof. Baker Brownell's course in Contemporary Thought is given first in the classroom of the school of journalism from which it is broadcast to a wide circle of listeners who study the lectures and pursue the reading. The lessons are also carried in the *Chicago Daily News* and now they have been brought together in twelve handy little volumes in covers so gay and decorative as to entice the unwary reader into thinking that they were a set of new detective stories or novels. Here are gathered a few of the fifty-eight contributors of the varied beliefs presenting a composite picture of modern views of the universe and the problems of modern life. The scope of the work is best shown by the mention of some of the lectures or subjects which they discuss. Ellsworth Huntington, "Does Civilization Set Us Free?"; Zona Gale, "Modern Prose"; Walter Dill Scott, "The New Energies and the New Man"; W. E. Hotchkiss, "Business in the New Era"; Fay-Cooper Cole, "Primitive Societies"; Joseph Jastrow, "Mind and Emotional Control"; Robert Morss Lovett, "The Value of Living"; Shailer Mathews, "The Religious Life"; Bishop Francis J. McConnell, "Fact and Faith"; Austin H. Clark, "Animal Evolution"; Morris Fishbein, "Society and the Human Body"; Richard T. Ely, "The Practical Approach to the World"; Clark Wissler, "The Origin of Man and His Races"; Ferdinand Schevill, "Man's Political History"; Whiting Williams, "What's Machinery Doing To Us?"; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "Feminism and Social Progress"; Baker Brownell, "The New Universe"; Edwin E. Slosson, "The Democracy of Knowledge" and "The Energy of the New World."

The course in Contemporary Thought, which is the origin of these essays on "Man and His World," is one of the efforts made by various universities in different ways to give the student a synthetic survey of modern civilization to counteract, so far as possible, the extreme special-

ization of most university courses. The editor has not attempted to bring these various thinkers into conformity. This would be practically impossible as well as undesirable. But the student and the independent reader will gather from this collection a more realistic conception of present day problems and the world in which he must live and work than he is likely to get from miscellaneous reading.

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

Books—Cont'd

THE AVIFAUNA OF EMERYVILLE SHELLMOUND—Hildegard Howard—*Univ. of Calif. Publ. in Zool.* (\$1.25). An exhaustive examination of the bird bones of one of California's famous Indian refuse heaps. That the aborigines were not too nice in their tastes is attested by the presence of bones of buzzards, hawks and owls as well as those of the more appealing waterfowl.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

OUTLINES OF GENERAL ZOOLOGY—H. H. Newman—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). A revised edition of Prof. Newman's excellent textbook.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

SKYLARKING—Bruce Gould—*Horace Liveright* (\$2.50). Not the history of aviation, not the story of an individual exploit, but the intimate details of the romantic adventure of flying.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

FORTUNA: OR CHANCE AND DESIGN—Norwood Young—*Dutton* (\$1). A new book in the Today and Tomorrow series. The author makes a statistical analysis of several methods by which "suckers" can lose money, and concludes that the least rapid is trentet-quarante, and the fastest the stock exchange.

Statistics

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

ALPHABET OF IDEAS OR DICTIONARY OF RO—Edward Powell Foster—*Roia* (\$1). A convenient dictionary of the universal language Ro.

Language

Science News-Letter, September 21, 1929

Musical Will-o'-the-Wisp

Physiography

The mysterious acoustic phenomenon over Yellowstone and Shoshone Lakes, recorded rarely but nevertheless intermittently during the past 44 years, has again been heard this summer on two succeeding days. The descriptions of the weird sounds vary. To some they are "musical". Others describe them as resembling the whirring sound made by the wings of many birds flying through the air, and to yet another they resemble moans.

Among the latest to hear the mysterious noises are Harold P. Fabian, Republican national committeeman from the State of Utah, and Edward E. Ogston, assistant chief ranger of Yellowstone. While fishing on Grebe Lake, with the breeze blowing in a northerly direction, they heard sounds similar to that coming from an airplane, originating in the east, passing over the lake, and dying in the west. The following day Chief Ranger George Baggley, while standing within 200 yards of the shore of Lake Yellowstone, heard the sounds, similar to that of many birds in flight, occur at three different times.

Back in 1885 John H. Renshawe, topographic engineer of the United States Geological Survey, recorded hearing the mysterious sounds when he had a supply camp on the west shore of the Lake about half-way between the present location of the Lake Hotel and the Lake Outlet. Mr. Renshawe states that he frequently heard the sound which has been called music, but that to him it was something more like a moan. This sound, he says, seemed to come from a hot spring on the bank of the lake on the opposite shore, and was dependent upon the state of the atmosphere and the direction of the wind. On approaching the spring, however, the only sound heard was the hiss of escaping steam.

While he was crossing the lake in a home-made boat with three assistants one morning, a strong wind came up and the boat was struck by lightning. One member of the party was killed, while the others were knocked unconscious. Mr. Renshawe states that the bolt of lightning which struck the boat came apparently out of a clear sky, and that when he regained consciousness the sun was shining and the air was clear. It is believed by some that the bolt of lightning from the clear sky may in some way be closely allied to the cause of the acoustic phenomenon.

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