

First Glances at New Books

THE LIVING AGE—New York (\$6 a year). *The Living Age* goes through more metamorphoses than a butterfly. It was known to our fathers in sober and solid form and rather dingy looking as *Littell's Living Age*. Then it appeared for several years in a bright and neat and handy size. A year ago it flared out into a large magazine form with a pictorial cover in colors. But with the September, 1929, issue it is cut down to a compromise form, not so convenient as the original but not so unwieldy as the recent form. Each number has a color frontispiece.

Literature
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

LUCK—Lothrop Stoddard—*Horace Liveright* (\$2.50). The trouble with this book is that the author doesn't know what he is talking about. He has no clear conception of his theme. He mixes up mascots with the mathematical theory of probability and so confounds superstition and science. The ill omens of black cats, thirteen and Friday have nothing to do with the number of times the ball falls into the red at roulette, or the calculation of average expectation of life by the actuaries of insurance companies. But the book contains a lot of amusing personal anecdotes of the curious coincidences and incalculable contingencies that occur in every career.

General Science
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

THE PROCESS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR—Mandel Sherman and Irene Case Sherman—*Norton* (\$3). Describes the making of a human being, what equipment of nerves, and sense organs, and reflexes a baby brings into the world and how that equipment develops, according to its possibilities, into emotions, intelligence, personality, and social behavior. The authors base their discussions on experimental work with infants in hospitals and at the Washington Child Research Center.

Physiology
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

THE HUDSON BAY REGION—F. H. Kitto—*Canadian Department of the Interior* (Free). One of the last of America's great frontiers is the Hudson Bay Region and this official Canadian governmental pamphlet contains valuable data on natural resources, mining, development and transportation.

Geography
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY 1928-29—Petroleum Division—*American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers* (\$5). Supplying America with gasoline, lubricants and all of the other products of petroleum is a great industry. In the sessions of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers the latest development in petroleum technology are revealed. This volume brings together the reports to the Institute during the past year.

Petroleum Technology
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING 1929—*American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers* (\$5). To have eyes that see into the depths of the earth has always been the dream of the miner or prospector. Geophysical prospecting has come as an answer to his need as a result of his endeavor. Electricity, magnetism, gravity and artificial earthquakes are used in geophysical explorations, and this volume reports and brings under one cover essential and current information on this latest mining aid.

Geology—Mining
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

POVERTY—R. W. Kelso—*Longmans, Green & Co.* (\$2). The pressure of population upon available means of subsistence is considered by the author to be fundamental among the causes of poverty. But this volume recognizes many other causes for the "fungus upon the surface of decay" which we are told rose almost with the gnawing of the first empty stomach. Attempted and supposed remedies are also described.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

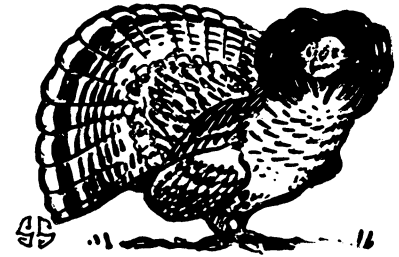
THE MYSTERIES OF BRITAIN—Lewis Spence—*McKay* (\$3.50). Deals with the Druids, and particularly with debatable questions as to the mystic philosophy and the extent of influence of the cult. It is argued that Druidism arose out of a Cult of the Dead, which had its place of origin in northwest Africa and its date of origin in the late Stone Age.

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929

NATURE RAMBLINGS

Natural History

By FRANK THONE



Ruffed Grouse

With the approach of the shooting season, hunters in many places will remember with a pang that they could once find ruffed grouse—or as the bird is less accurately but still very widely known, partridge. Now the coverts are not amply stocked anywhere, and there are many parts of the country where the younger sportsmen have never seen a ruffed grouse fly.

The disappearance of the grouse is lamentable, though not beyond remedy. It simply involves the correction of the factors that caused the diminution in numbers of this fine bird. The most obvious and direct enemies of the grouse have been beasts and birds of prey, headed by that most deadly of all predatory mammals, man-with-a-gun. Closed seasons, game sanctuaries, and bag limits are doing something toward helping this trouble toward elimination.

A second factor is more serious. The grouse is a bird of brushy country; it does not like nice, clean-floored, parklike timber lots, and it simply can not survive in well cultivated fields. Of course, it is out of the question to surrender economic farm and timber lands to a game bird; but some of the marginal land that should never have been cultivated at all is now automatically reverting to brush and small-timber areas, which will make good hunting land if the grouse can be re-introduced.

The third trouble with the grouse has been diseases, which have made it impossible to rear the bird in captivity, as the foreign pheasants have been. But lately a young ornithologist at Cornell University, named Arthur A. Allen, has made much progress toward solving this difficulty, and it may be that eventually we shall have grouse farms just as we have establishments for the propagation of other game animals.

Science News-Letter, September 28, 1929