

# • First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews  
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## Astronomy

INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY—Dinsmore Alter—*Crowell*, 136 p., \$2. With this laboratory manual-text even the small college without an observatory can give an adequate course in practical astronomy. The author, who is professor of astronomy at the University of Kansas, explains that with an American Ephemeris, costing \$1.75, erasable hemispheres costing \$4.90 each, and a second-hand engineer's transit, it is possible to give elementary laboratory instruction with a scientific value almost equal to that obtainable in the largest university. This book in conjunction with any of the standard texts on astronomy should also give the amateur valuable elementary, general systematic knowledge. Twenty-nine experiments are described and there is a supply of circular and rectangular coordinate paper.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Geology

UNITED STATES EARTHQUAKES 1931—U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey—*Government Printing Office*, 27 p., 5c. A record of seismic activity in the United States and the regions under its jurisdiction. Telegraphic reports collected by Science Service from the seismological observatories of this country and abroad since 1925 are used by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in the determination of earthquake epicenters.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Archaeology

AZTATLAN, PREHISTORIC MEXICAN FRONTIER ON THE PACIFIC COAST—Carl Sauer and Donald Brand—*Univ. of California Press*, 66 p., 14 pl., \$2. A reconnaissance study of one of the higher culture areas of Mexico which has lain forgotten since its sudden destruction by the Spaniards. The authors find reason to believe that this region acquired its higher culture in the Toltec period, and is therefore older than local tradition which links it with Aztec migration.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Chemistry

VON DAVY UND DOEBEREINER BIS DEACON—A. Mittasch and E. Theis—*Verlag Chemie, Berlin*, 279 p., \$5. A closely written, well documented history of catalytic chemistry, from its beginnings late in the eighteenth century until about the end of the second third

of the nineteenth with a brief epitome of progress since then. Students of chemistry swamped with the voluminous literature of the present day developments in the catalytic and contact subdisciplines of their science, will welcome this background book. It is to be hoped that it will soon be translated into English.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Chemistry

MODERN ALCHEMY—William Albert Noyes and W. Albert Noyes, Jr.—*Thomas*, 207 p., \$3. Following a suggestion of the late Dr. E. E. Slosson, director of Science Service, Prof. Noyes and his son have written this book, the title of which is self-explanatory. It should, as they hope, prove interesting to workers and students in fields of science other than chemistry, as it discusses in relatively simple style developments in modern chemistry, physics, medicine and biology.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Medical Economics

MEDICAL CARE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—*University of Chicago Press*, 213 p., \$1.50. The much-discussed final report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care is now available for those who wish to read it themselves and form their own opinions.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Physiology

HEARING IN MAN AND ANIMALS—R. T. Beatty—*Bell and Sons, London*, 227 p., 12s. This is a tremendously interesting book. The author explains most simply and clearly how man and animals hear, how much they hear, and how their auditory organs evolved. Music, noise and defective hearing are also discussed. The illustrations add to the very lucid text.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## General Science

CHILDREN'S SCIENCE FAIR—Morris Meister—*American Institute*, 48 p., 25c. One of the fruitful projects in science education of recent years is the Children's Science Fair as developed in New York City. Details of the theory and practical mechanism of this exhibition are contained in this booklet. It should provide inspiration and information for the spread of the idea to other parts of the nation.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Psychology-Education

THE PARENT AND THE HAPPY CHILD—Lorine Pruette—*Holt*, 290 p., \$2. Since the happiness of the child depends to a great extent upon the happiness and efficiency of the parents, considerable space in this volume is devoted to the elders of the family. A rating scale, on which the mother may rate her own value, is included.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Physiology

ALCOHOL AND THE OTHER GERM POISONS—G. P. Frets—*Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague*, 179 p. A review of present, admittedly insufficient, knowledge of the harm done the offspring by alcoholism of the parents or their poisoning with lead, mercury, thallium, arsenic, antimony, phosphorus, iodine, nicotine, caffeine, morphine and opiates, chloroform, ether, quinine, strychnine and many others. More than half the book is given over to alcoholism. The Dutch Physicians' Union of Total Abstinents contributed toward the expenses of the English translation.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Mechanical Engineering

PATTERN MAKING—James Ritchey, revised by Walter W. Monroe, Charles Wm. Beese, and Philip Ray Hall—*American Technical Society*, 223 p., \$1.75. Details of methods and machines in pattern shop and foundry are covered in this practical treatise.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Mathematics

ANALYTIC GEOMETRY—Frederick S. Nowlan—*McGraw-Hill*, 295 p., \$2.25. A new text designed primarily for the use of first- and second-year university students in both arts and engineering courses. The author is professor of mathematics in the University of British Columbia.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Aeronautics

MOTORLESS FLIGHT—Edited by J. R. Ashwell-Cooke—*John Hamilton, London*, 149 p., 7s. 6d. An interesting book on gliding as practiced in England.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Engineering

ELEMENTS OF MINING—George J. Young—*McGraw-Hill*, 707 p., \$6. The third and a revised edition of a standard text and reference book.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

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## History

FALL OF THE INCA EMPIRE—Philip Ainsworth Means—*Scribner's*—351 p., \$4.50. In these days, when money and its substitutes are street-corner topics, the strange history of Peru is more than ever interesting. Mr. Means takes up events where he left off in his "Ancient Civilizations of the Andes," and tells of the last years of the great, money-less Incan Empire. Then comes the Spanish Conquest with its money complex. The volume ends in 1780, in the viceregal period, and so another volume will be needed to bring events up to modern times. With his usual thoroughness, Mr. Means discusses the daily life of the people—their arts, trading, and industries—and state and church institutions in colonial Peru.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Medicine

MEN AGAINST DEATH—Paul DeKruif—*Harcourt, Brace*, 363 p., \$3.50. This book contains more of the dramatic accounts of medical triumphs for which Author DeKruif is noted. This time he turns to tales of more modern discoveries, such as insulin for diabetes, liver for pernicious anemia, protective vaccine for Rocky Mountain spotted fever, cause of undulant fever, etc. The prologue seems unnecessary.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Philanthropy

HOPE FOR THE LEPER—Christine I. Tinling—*Revell*, 57 p., 60c. A small picture of some phases of the leprosy problem in the East, written with the aim of arousing sympathy for the lepers and support for the missionaries and other agents who are trying to help the poor victims of this ancient disease.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Mathematics

ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS, Vol. II—Mayme Irwin Logsdon—*McGraw-Hill*, 188 p., \$1.75. The second volume of a freshman text in mathematics by an associate professor of mathematics at the University of Chicago. The sixteen chapters range from the number system of elementary mathematics to a treatment of probability.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Neurology

THE MECHANISM OF NERVOUS ACTION—E. D. Adrian—*University of Pennsylvania Press*, 103 p., \$2. The

author of the 1931 Eldridge Reeves Johnson Foundation lectures, reproduced in this book, last year shared the Nobel prize in medicine and physiology with Sir Charles Scott Sherrington. In these lectures, Professor Adrian gives results of his own and others' investigations in the course of electrical studies of the neurone. The book is highly technical, but will appeal to physiologists and other scientists who were unable to hear the lectures.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Chemistry

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING—American Institute of Chemical Engineers—*Van Nostrand*, 76 p., 50c. A valuable contribution to the literature of American chemical history which was issued as a souvenir of the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers at Washington last December. Particularly interesting, as a matter of record, are the summaries of research in leading chemical engineering industries.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Medicine

A STANDARD CLASSIFIED NOMENCLATURE OF DISEASE—edited by H. B. Logie—*Commonwealth Fund*, 702 p., \$3.50. A reference book compiled by the National Conference on Nomenclature of Disease. Useful for medical scientists and students, nurses, and hospital and health officials.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Geography

COMPTES RENDUS DU CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE GÉOGRAPHIE, PARIS, 1931—*Librairie Armand Colin*, 360 p. The record of the proceedings of the most recent International Congress on Geography.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Psychology

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY—Floyd C. Dockeray—*Prentice-Hall*, 581 p., \$3.50. A college text book written from a genetic viewpoint.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Economics-Technology

TECHNOCRACY: AN INTERPRETATION—Stuart Chase—*John Day*, 32 p., 25c. Probably the seeker after enlightenment can obtain a better idea of just what technocracy desires by reading this small pamphlet than any other publication on the subject.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Economics-Technology

FOR AND AGAINST TECHNOCRACY—Edited by J. George Frederick—*Business Bourse*, 278 p., \$2.50. To a degree this is a source book of comment about technocracy, for it brings into book form some of the criticisms enunciated during the flare of publicity that occurred in December and early January. The editor incorporates his own data on technocracy's assertions, politics, philosophy and background.

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Engineering-Economics

WHAT IS TECHNOCRACY?—Allen Raymond—*McGraw-Hill*, 180 p., \$1.50. This critique of technocracy was developed from the study made by the author as a reporter for the *New York Herald Tribune*. Both theories and personalities are discussed and the background that he gives is essential to an understanding of the phenomenon of technocracy. Mr. Raymond says his appraisal is "essentially from the viewpoint of an average citizen."

*Science News Letter, February 25, 1933*

## Engineering-Economics

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOCRACY—Howard Scott and others—*John Day*, 61 p., 90c. Labelled "the only authorized presentation," this booklet contains a chapter prepared by the Continental Committee on Technocracy and reprints a portion of a previous article by Howard Scott. The relatively brief text is embellished with a selected reading list for laymen from the literature of science, some basic definitions largely quoted from Maxwell and a note which contends that Veblen's theory and Scott's theory are different.

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