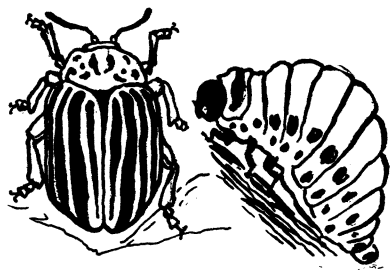


NATURE RAMBLINGS

by Frank Thone

ENTOMOLOGY



Potato Beetle

HIGH SUMMER, and a hot sun overhead Young Johnny, rebellious back stooped over potato hills, picks off striped beetles and grumbles at an unjust world. It would be a much better universe if the potato-bugs would eat up all the darn potatoes, and let a fellow go swimming!

Young Johnny's great-grandfather, back before the Civil War, had other tasks to try his youthful soul, but picking potato-beetles was not among them. These littled striped pests, now the most formidable of all insect enemies of the potato, did not cross the Mississippi until about 1864.

The insect is commonly called the Colorado potato beetle, but that is probably a base slander on a state that has suffered even more from their invasion than have most of her eastern sister commonwealths. Most probably its native home is on the Mexican highlands.

Originally it was a feeder on a wild relative of the potato, the buffalo burr. Then the cultivated potato invaded its bailiwick, and it found the leaves of this new plant much more tasty. So it multiplied and increased, and possessed the potato fields. It seems to have a very decided preference for some special flavor in the foliage of this one family, for besides potatoes it also attacks tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and tobacco, all of which are botanical cousins.

Because of its general nastiness, the potato beetle is not much troubled by birds. Even the almost omnivorous hen won't eat it. But that pleasantest of our game birds, the bobwhite quail, will. Which is another reason for befriending bobwhite.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
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Physiology

HOW YOU ARE MADE—Amabel Williams-Ellis—*Macmillan*, 96 p., \$1. This small book is designed to give adolescents a "palatable" but clear account of the human body and its functions. The simple, matter-of-fact style has a charm that should make the book successful.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Sociology

THE DISABLED MAN AND HIS VOCATIONAL ADJUSTMENT—Roy N. Anderson—*Institute for the Crippled and Disabled*, 102 p., \$1. A study of the types of jobs held by 4,404 orthopedic cases in relation to the specific disability. Between the lines of this reference book, you may read many a story of courage and adjustment to stupendous handicaps, as in the case of the two men listed who, although having both legs amputated, were holding jobs as salesmen of artificial limbs.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Psychology

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MENTAL TESTS AND RATING SCALES—Gertrude H. Hildreth—*Psychological Corporation*, 242 p., \$3. This list of tests and scales is one which has been maintained in card index form at Teachers College, Columbia University. Information is included regarding the date of publication and revision and the publisher from whom they may be obtained. No attempt is made to evaluate them, however.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Health Education

BROADCASTING HEALTH—J. Mace Andress and I. H. Goldberger—*Ginn*, 401 p., 80c. There is a freshness and novelty of style and presentation in this book which lift it far out of the class of usual health texts for grade pupils. The authors confine themselves to health aspects of food and nutrition, which their long experience in health education shows them are sufficiently important and broad subjects to deserve an entire year's study.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Ethnology

HOLLOW FOLK—Mandel Sherman and Thomas R. Henry—*Crowell*, 215 p., \$2. Less than a hundred miles from the capital city of the United States live

Blue Ridge mountain folk who seem to belong to another world entirely. Until 1928 the ragged children had never seen a flag, or heard of the Lord's Prayer. A group of psychologists, sociologists, a psychiatrist and a nutritionist studied five of these hollow communities, that are like a graduated scale of mountain society. What they found out about the mentality, personalities, habits and ways of these isolated Americans is told vividly in this book. The collaborator, Mr. Henry, is science editor of the *Washington Star*.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Botany

BOTANY: PLANTS AND GARDENING—*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 239 p., 37 pl., \$3. This appears as No. 9 of the Britannica Booklets, and presents articles reprinted from the Fourteenth Edition of the *Encyclopaedia*, well arranged, illustrated and indexed. It is an excellent reference book.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

General Science

MASSACHUSETTS STATE NAME, FLAG, SEAL, SONG, BIRD, FLOWER AND OTHER SYMBOLS—George Earlie Shackle—*H. W. Wilson Co.*, 16 p., 25c. Similar booklets are available for the states of Minnesota, Virginia and Washington. A list of outstanding state histories completes each pamphlet.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Geology

REPORT OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST ON THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES AND GEOLOGY OF VERMONT, 1931-1932—*Free Press Printing Co.*, 387 p., free. Distributed through the Division of Documents, Vermont State Library, Montpelier, Vermont.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Chemistry

QUANTITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS—George McPhail Smith—*Macmillan*, 199 p., \$2.25. Third edition.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Mental Hygiene

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE—Frederick W. Parsons—*J. B. Lyon Co.*, 357 p.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Page 79

Medicine

FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE—Morris Fishbein—*Williams and Wilkins*, 207 p., \$1. One of the Century of Progress Series. Medical progress—not of one century but of more than twenty centuries—moves swiftly across the pages of this small volume. The reader will be stirred by the drama of the story as Dr. Fishbein tells it at the same time that he is being enlightened as to the significance of the great progress that has been made since medicine became a science as well as an art.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Sociology

WOMEN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY—Sophonisba P. Breckinridge—*McGraw-Hill*, 364 p., \$4. One of the monographs published under the direction of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends. The volume is organized in three parts discussing respectively: Women's Use of Spare Time, Women and Gainful Employment, and Women and Government.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Hygiene

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT—Edgar Sydenstricker—*McGraw-Hill*, 217 p., \$2.50. Readers with a liking for facts and figures will revel in this book with its mass of carefully compiled, accurate information on how environment affects health and length of life. Environment here includes social and economic status and occupation as well as geographic situation. Special students of the subject will find the book particularly valuable. It is one of the monographs in the series, Recent Social Trends in the United States.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Ichthyology

THE FISHES OF THE . . . PHILIPPINE SEAS AND ADJACENT WATERS—Henry W. Fowler—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 465 p., 50c. The fifth part of a series of studies of the fishes of the Albatross collection, appearing as National Museum Bulletin 100, Vol. 12.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Physics

THE METHOD OF DIMENSIONS—Alfred W. Porter—*E. P. Dutton & Co.*, 80 p., 85c. Since the time of Galileo scientists have been attempting to determine what kind of dimensions are

really fundamental. With brevity, but with considerable detail, the emeritus professor of physics in the University of London shows some of the applications of the method of dimensions and he discusses how recent discoveries have forced the modification of what at one time was thought to be fundamental.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Library Science

WORLD DEPRESSION—WORLD RECOVERY—Henry D. Gideonse—*American Library Association*, 22 p., 25c.

COLLAPSE OR CYCLE—Paul H. Douglas—*American Library Association*, 23 p., 25c.

LIVING WITH MACHINES—W. F. Ogburn—*American Library Association*, 16 p., 25c.

MEETING THE FARM CRISIS—J. H. Kolb—*American Library Association*, 24 p., 25c.

LESS GOVERNMENT OR MORE?—Louis Brownlow and Charles S. Ascher—*American Library Association*, 22 p., 25c.

A new series of booklets entitled **EXPLORING THE TIMES** issued by the American Library Association to enable librarians to advise readers on current problems and events.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Biography

THOMAS ALVA EDISON, THE YOUTH AND HIS TIMES—W. E. Wise—*Rand McNally*, 252 p., \$2. A biography of Edison's youth written in easy narrative style for boys. It is a junior literary guild selection.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Psychology

ADOLESCENT GIRLHOOD—Mary Chadwick—*John Day*, 303 p., \$3.50. A book by a British author, containing advice for the parents of a normal growing girl.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Psychology

A POINT SCALE OF PERFORMANCE TESTS. VOLUME II, THE PROCESS OF STANDARDIZATION—Grace Arthur—*Commonwealth Fund*, 106 p., \$1.50.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Archaeology-Philology

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE—James Henry Breasted—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 455 p., 209 illus., \$4. Attractively illustrated and written by an archaeologist who knows how to tell about his work simply and vividly, this account of a great institute's activities is well worth reading. The Institute, of which Dr. Breasted is director, has been at work 13 years finding out: "How did man become what he is?" The quest has led expeditions to Egyptian tombs and deserts, Assyrian palaces, city mounds in Palestine and other places where man's past is hidden in the earth. The book is Volume 12 in the University of Chicago Survey Series, in which projects at the University are being described.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Chemistry

A TEXT BOOK OF CHEMISTRY—H. A. Wootton and C. W. R. Hooker—*Macmillan*, 488 p., \$1.75. This volume by two British science teachers is intended for use as a text in elementary chemistry courses. Interesting is this observation by the authors: "We wish to insist that Chemistry is a cultural subject—as much so as Greek or Philosophy—and we have tried to treat it in that spirit. In presenting it we have not felt constrained of necessity to the mere statement of a fact in the dreariest and most matter-of-fact way. The days are gone when dullness was a quality to be counted upon in a school text-book."

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Travel-Geography

TERRY'S GUIDE TO THE JAPANESE EMPIRE—T. Philip Terry—*Houghton Mifflin*, 799 p., \$5. A revised and augmented edition of a guide which also covers Korea and Formosa, with chapters on Manchuria, the Trans-Siberian Railway and the chief ocean routes to Japan.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1933

Mathematics

ELEMENTS OF COORDINATE GEOMETRY—J. M. Child—*Macmillan*, 468 p., \$3.25.

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