

a group of three connected pyramids in the middle. The South Platform, superior to any of these other structures in ancient remains, to judge by its contours revealed under its earth covering, is still untouched. It looms even higher than the North Platform did, and looks down on the whole acropolis. It has mounds on top, and there are mounds upon those mounds, so that Monte Alban's highest point is there. On the sides it looks straight down into the Valley of Oaxaca, 1,300 feet below.

On the southeast corner of this South Terrace is a mound with a hollow rotunda inside, ruined, but still preserving its shape. It had a chimney-like opening in the roof, and corridors on the ground floor going into the four world directions.

Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, the eminent archaeologist long resident in Mexico, who recently died, called this an astronomical observatory, and the most important ancient building in America because she saw in it the link of all the calendar-cultures of America. This building will be included in a thorough excavation of the South Terrace.

In fact, Dr. Caso deliberately saved the South Terrace because of its apparent importance, believing that excavating experience in other parts, first, would be of service here. The Mexican archaeologists will also continue excavations in the big graveyard area where treasure was found in 1932, and where twenty-six other tombs were found this past season.

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PREPARE for Fall Reading

The latest books are promptly reviewed in *Science News Letter*. Consult "First Glances" of recent numbers, make a list of your wants and send it to us. They will be given our immediate attention.



First Glances at New Books

Geography

THE MAKING OF GEOGRAPHY—R. E. Dickinson and O. J. R. Howarth—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 264 p., \$3. Tells of the brave, groping efforts of travelers and navigators to find out what this earth is like. With its first picture, a Sumerian map of the world drawn 2700 B. C., and its last picture, a map dividing the world into natural regions according to very modern geographic principles, this history of geographic science is a good post-graduate course in geography for the fire-side, as well as a good reference work.

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Biology-Philosophy

THE UNIVERSE AND LIFE—H. S. Jennings—*Yale Univ. Press*, 94 p., \$1.50. The Terry lectures at Yale as delivered by the Henry Walters Professor of Zoology at the Johns Hopkins University. Prof. Jennings discussed the nature and potentialities of the universe as revealed by the study of biology, the production of new and unpredictable phenomena as time passes, the nature of evolutionary progress and the management of life.

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Textile Technology—Physics

FUNDAMENTALS OF FIBRE STRUCTURE—W. T. Astbury—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 187 p., \$3. X-rays have had many applications to the analysis of structure of materials and their service in understanding fibers is one of the most important. The author, who is director of the Textile Physics Research Laboratory of the University of Leeds, brings into book form six lectures given to textile students and operatives, discussing the fundamental nature of matter and radiation, the invisible fibers of the world of molecules, how atoms and molecules make patterns in space, the inside of a textile fiber, and difference between wool and other fibers. Sir William Bragg in the introduction says: "The fibre is an essential constituent of all things that grow; and man has made wide use of its qualities in many ways. Spinning and weaving have been one of his chief industries since prehistoric

times. With wool and silk, cotton and jute, and many other kinds of fibre he has clothed himself and furnished his house; he has made ropes and sails; he has manufactured paper and felt, artificial silk, and hundreds of other things in everyday use. The X-ray methods show that fibres are crystalline in the sense that they contain innumerable small bodies, the atoms and molecules of which are in regular array. The properties of the fibre depend largely on the size and disposition of these minute crystals as well as on the arrangement of atoms and molecules within each crystal. The X-rays not only reveal the existence of crystalline structure: they determine also its design."

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Botany

THREE KEYS TO WILD FLOWERING PLANTS—Mary Franklin Barrett—*Author*, 64 Park Avenue, Bloomfield, N. J., 46 p., 50c. Artificial keys to (1) submerged and surface-floating aquatics, (2) autumn-flowering monocotyledons, (3) autumn-flowering composites of Connecticut, southeastern New York, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. This should prove a useful addition to the encouragingly growing local-flora literature.

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Library Science

NEWSPAPER REFERENCE METHODS—Robert W. Desmond—*Univ. of Minnesota*, 229 p., \$2.50. More than half of this book deals with the organization, administration and routine of newspaper libraries; and this material is a mine of valuable and useful information. The book lists at the end of the volume have not been brought up to date.

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Biography

FIFTY YEARS OF MUSEUM WORK: Autobiography, Unpublished Papers, and Bibliography—Frederic A. Lucas—*Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 81 p., 5 pl., \$1. A veteran museologist and zoologist gives a good account of his stewardship.

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