

# •First Glances at New Books

## GENERAL SCIENCE

A HISTORY OF MAGIC AND EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE, Vol. V and VI, The Sixteenth Century—Lynn Thorndike—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 695 p. and 766 p., \$10 a set. Covering the period from about 1500 to 1630, these two volumes complete Dr. Thorndike's monumental history of magic and experimental science. The present work shows the extent of the classical reaction against the ideas and institutions of the middle ages, and how new facts added to outworn systems resulted in confusion rather than enlightenment. The quest in those times was for the secrets rather than the laws of nature, a quest which has not yet ended by any means. This was the time of Leonardo da Vinci. Out of the magic, what was to become modern science was being born. Timely, in a new darkening of intellectual effort, is information on persecution and intolerance, political and religious fugitives and intellectual bootleggers and idea-runners of those important 16th century days.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## PHOTOGRAPHY

TILT OF THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAPHICAL RESECTION—Ralph O. Anderson—*Pub. by author, P. O. Box 882, Chattanooga, Tenn.*, 50 p., \$1. A technical pamphlet of interest to those concerned with the use of aerial photographs in mapping.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## BIOGRAPHY

McGILLYCUDDY, AGENT, a Biography of Dr. Valentine T. McGillicuddy—Julia B. McGillicuddy—*Stanford Univ. Press*, 291 p., \$3. Stirring adventures thronged the life of Dr. McGillicuddy, who went through Indian war experiences, and later headed the formidable Sioux agency at Pine Ridge, which called for courage. Picturesque characters move through pages of the book: Sitting Bull, Buffalo Bill, Calamity Jane, and many others.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## HISTORY

LIFE AND LETTERS OF VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA — Charles L. G. Anderson — *Revell*, 368 p., illus., \$3.50. "The most attractive and tragic figure in the Hispanic conquest of the New World" was Balboa, first European to view the vast Pacific. So Dr. Anderson characterizes this Spanish nobleman, telling his story from arrival in the New World

hidden in a ship's sail, to execution on charges of treason—unjust charges, the biographer avers.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ETHNOLOGY

KWAKIUTL DANCING SOCIETIES—Philip Drucker—*Univ. of Calif. Press*, 29 p., 30c. (*Anthropological Records*, Vol. 2, No. 6.)

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## GEOGRAPHY

WISCONSIN, A Guide to the Badger State—Writers' Program, Wisconsin W. P. A.—*Duell, Sloan and Pearce*, 651 p., illus., \$2.75. Quantities of fine illustrations are the first impression, as you open this newest volume in the American Guide Series. These guidebook writers think of everything, down to giving brief hints on traffic peculiarities and telling where sports can be enjoyed in various cities. And there is a wealth of state history and facts and figures.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ETHNOLOGY

RANK AND WARFARE AMONG THE PLAINS INDIANS — Bernard Mishkin — *Augustin*, 65 p., \$1.50. Rank and warfare among Plains Indians can be clearly understood only in the light of sociological and economic conditions in the Plains, the author emphasizes. Particular attention is given to the advantage which horses gave to Plains tribes, in military and economic strength.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ETHNOLOGY

TAOS TALES — Elsie Clews Parsons — *Augustin*, 185 p., \$3.50. Winter evenings are the time when Pueblo Indians at Taos, New Mexico, like to tell stories. And here are nearly 100 of these native American stories written down by an ethnologist who has a special gift for conveying the literary art of the Indian tale.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## MATHEMATICS

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRAIC THEORIES — A. Adrian Albert—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 137 p., \$1.75. A mathematical text which assumes a prerequisite knowledge of that part of the theory of equations given as a chapter of the ordinary text in college algebra, as well as a reasonably complete knowledge of the theory of determinants.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUEST, THE EVOLUTION OF A SCIENTIST—Leopold Infeld—*Doubleday, Doran*, 342 p., \$3. Double-barreled biography that gives an insight into the workings of the mind of a mathematical physicist, born in the ghetto of Cracow, who became a collaborator of Einstein. This is a very human, readable document.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ECONOMICS

THAT MEN MAY UNDERSTAND, An American in the Long Armistice—Harold Rugg—*Doubleday, Doran*, 355 p., \$2.75. See page 238.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## CHEMISTRY—PHYSICS

MYSTERY EXPERIMENTS AND PROBLEMS FOR SCIENCE CLASSES AND SCIENCE CLUBS (3d ed.)—J. O. Frank and Guy J. Barlow—*J. O. Frank*, 193 p., illus., \$2.25. Full directions, with diagrams, are given for many scientific "stunts" which teachers should find most useful in arousing their students' interest. All of the experiments can be performed with relative simplicity.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ETHNOLOGY

LAW AND STATUS AMONG THE KIOWA INDIANS — Jane Richardson — *Augustin*, 136 p., \$2. Cites and analyzes representative law cases occurring in tribal society of these Oklahoma Indians. Special discussion is reserved for absconding cases—"the big source of trouble among the Kiowa"—and ways in which status conditioned the pattern of justice.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## GEOGRAPHY

UNCLE SAM'S PACIFIC ISLETS—David N. Leff—*Stanford Univ. Press*, 71 p., \$1. Discusses geography, history, and international significance of Wake, Kingman Reef and other islands very important now to Uncle Sam.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*

## ENGINEERING

AIR CONDITIONING PRINCIPLES — Charles Osborn Mackey—*International Textbook Co.*, 210 p., \$2. Principles are here presented rather than complete description of the equipment and controls used in air conditioning work, so the author suggests that study of the text should be accompanied or preceded by a study of equipment.

*Science News Letter, April 12, 1941*