

scious of the snow, however; and if the consciousness that it is snow be reduced or eliminated, as by looking at the view on a camera ground glass, the effect is more marked. "Distant snow banks," said Mr. Priest, "may assume the illusory character of 'equivocal figures', being perceived in alternate moments now as white snow banks in shadow and now as blue lakes, without any change in objective conditions."

Mr. Priest is unable to explain the illusion on physical grounds, or by the conditions of the retina, the sensitive lining of the eye. He suggests, however, that they are in accord with the ideas of perception suggested by Helmholtz.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

EVENING WITH THE STARS: Mary Proctor. Harper and Brothers, N.Y., 1925. 218 pp.; \$2.00.

Richard Proctor was one of the leaders in the popularizing of astronomy a half century ago, and in this book his daughter proves that she has inherited much of her father's talent. In the course of twelve evenings, supposedly at different times of the year, she takes her reader out under the night sky and explains the principal objects that it contains, in a simple yet beautifully lucid style, and with the aid of well prepared diagrams. The half-tone illustrations, which might be more numerous, are, however, well selected, and give the reader an idea of how some of the celestial objects appear through modern telescopes. This book is one to be cordially recommended to one who wishes to know something about the oldest and most fascinating of all the sciences - the science of the stars.

X-RAYS: by Maurice de Broglie, translated by J. R. Clarke. E. P. Dutton and Co., N. Y., 1925. 204 pp., \$5.00.

To most people X-rays are an aid to the physician or dentist, but that their uses are by no means as limited as that is shown by this book, for one looks in it in vain for any reference to the therapeutic or diagnostic applications of Reentgen's discovery. Instead, it is devoted to such subjects as X-ray physics, molecular scattering of the rays, and X-ray spectra, for in the field of physics, the advent of the X-rays has been as revolutionary as they were in medicine. The author himself has been prominently identified with this new research, and his book is completely abreast of the most recent progress.

The year 1926 is the fiftieth anniversary of the telephone.

Ruins of a city about 1,500 years old have just been found in Sweden.
