

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

ENIGMAS: ANOTHER BOOK OF UNEXPLAINED FACTS—R. T. Gould—*Philip Allan—London* (12/6). The success of Lieutenant Commander Gould's "Oddities" (London & New York, 1928) has led him to publish a second book on this fascinating subject of "unexplained facts." While those familiar with "Oddities" will not experience the novelty felt when reading that book, they will find in "Enigmas" a collection of curious happenings, all well authenticated historically, but all lacking adequate explanation. Some of the subjects treated are: strange sounds, such as the cry of the Egyptian statue of Memnon; extraordinary cases of longevity, like "Old Parr"; the straits of Anian; the landfall of Columbus and the canals of Mars. The author holds no brief for any of the explanations that he discusses, he merely presents the facts and leaves it to the reader to judge for himself. So interesting are the first two books by Commander Gould that one hopes the other curious works he is writing will soon appear.

General Science
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

MECHANICS OF THE GYROSCOPE—Richard F. Deimel—(Engineering Science Series)—*Macmillan*—(\$4). The "brain" of many of the robots of our mechanical civilization consists of a spinning top. This technical treatise deals comprehensively with the dynamics of rotation and it is an explanation of the mechanical principles underlying the gyroscope in its many applications.

Mechanics
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

HONDURAN MOSSES COLLECTED BY PAUL C. STANDLEY—Edwin B. Bartram—*Field Museum*. A pamphlet of interest to bryologists and systematic botanists generally.

Botany
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

RADIAL VELOCITIES OF 500 STARS OF SPECTRAL CLASS A—Edwin B. Frost, Storrs B. Barrett & Otto Struve—*University of Chicago Press* (\$1.50). The results of 28 years spectrographic work at the Yerkes Observatory in determining how rapidly these stars are approaching or receding from the earth. Early in the scheme of stellar evolution, with faint and diffuse spectral lines, the A class are particularly difficult to measure in this way, and the work represents a real achievement.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

CHEMISTRY IN DAILY LIFE—Samuel Glasstone—*Dutton*—(\$2.25). Of British origin, this book will satisfy the needs of those who read for information rather than entertainment. It is typically British in that it contains a surprising amount of information compactly presented in readable rather than enticing form.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

AMUNDSEN—THE SPLENDID NORSEMAN—Bellamy Partridge—*Stokes* (\$2.50). The great epical explorer of all times is the subject of this illuminating biography.

Exploration—Biography
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

TRANSPORTATION GLOSSARY—H. G. Brady—*Simmons-Boardman* (\$1.75). A supplement to the dictionary to explain the technical terms in the broad field of transportation.

Transportation
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD COURT—Philip C. Jessup—*World Peace Foundation* (\$2). The history of the American attitude and action toward the World Court compiled by a Columbia University professor.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

TRANSPORT AVIATION—Archibald Black—*Simmons-Boardman*—(\$5). A second and new edition of a handbook of the aviation business which will undoubtedly prove of real value to those in this industrial field.

Aviation
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

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LINDBERGH FLIES ON!—Earl Reeves—*McBride* (\$2). A story that starts with Lindbergh and includes the colorful leaders in the building of America's air empire.

Aviation
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

DANCE OF THE MACHINES—Edward J. O'Brien—*Macaulay* (\$2.50). The machine incarnate visualized as the great standardizer and destroyer of individual American genius today is blamed upon the decadence of the American short story.

Literature
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

DAVID LIVINGSTONE—G. E. Mitton—*Black, London* (2/, about 60c). One of the attractive little volumes in the series entitled "Peeps at Great Explorers." It emphasizes Livingstone's experiences as an explorer rather than as a missionary. A number of the illustrations are in color.

Exploration
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

THE FIELD MUSEUM—OXFORD UNIVERSITY EXPEDITION TO KISH, MESOPOTAMIA, 1923-1929—Henry Field—*Field Museum* (50c). An illuminating booklet giving the gist of some of the most important of modern archaeological explorations in the Near East.

Archaeology
Science News-Letter, January 4, 1930

Brief Science Notes

A new and promising insecticide is rotenone, a crystalline material which is both a contact and stomach poison, now obtained chiefly from foreign plants.

American plant growers have so improved the Japanese chrysanthemum that Japan now looks to America for the newest varieties.

It has only recently been demonstrated that Easter lilies may be grown in almost every part of the United States and even in Canada, if properly protected.

The mummy of one of the Egyptian pharaohs shows that he had a typical club foot.

There are more than 19,000 doctors in the United States who practise as specialists only.