

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE DRIFT OF CIVILIZATION—A Symposium—*Simon and Schuster* (\$3). When, late in 1928, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published its fiftieth anniversary edition, it brought together a list of contributors seldom assembled in one publication. Their comments upon the way the world is going has been brought together in cloth covers in order that they may be more permanently preserved. The future of science is covered in nine articles by: Dr. Charles G. Abbot, Commander Richard E. Byrd, Prof. Albert Einstein, Dr. H. E. Howe, Owen D. Young, Prof. Michael Pupin, Dr. Morris Fishbein, Dr. Paul de Kruif, and Sir Philip Gibbs.

General Science  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

CONSUMERS USES OF ARITHMETIC—A. O. Bowen—*Columbia University* (\$1.50). The report of a study of what kinds of arithmetic are actually used by adults in their daily life, intended as a guide in curriculum making.

Mathematics  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

FORD MODEL "A" CAR—Victor W. Pagé—*Henley* (\$2). To the army of mechanics who spend their lives servicing the latest editions from Mr. Ford's factory, this book will be helpful.

Automotive Engineering  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

SOME FORERUNNERS OF THE NEWSPAPER—Matthias A. Shaaber—*University of Pennsylvania Press* (\$4). To us today to whom the daily newspaper is not a wonder of mechanics and distribution, but simply a necessity, it is difficult to visualize a time when the distribution of printed information depended upon the publication of pamphlets and books. Yet before the appearance of the first English newspaper in the spring of 1622, the journalism of the period of a hundred and sixty years previously consisted of printed ballads, books, advertisements and other miscellaneous printed matter. As today, most of the "journalistic" output was devoted to official news, political and religious propaganda, and accounts of crimes, wars, and rebellions. But it is interesting to read in this scholarly study of the days before the newspaper, accounts of miracles, prodigies, and wonders suggestive of newspaper stories of today.

Journalism  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

SKY HIGH—Eric Hodgkins and F. Alexander Magoun—*Little, Brown* (\$2.50). Aviation is now old enough to have a history worthy of the name. The stories of the conquest of the air issued in the past few months have been legion. This latest addition to them is a creditable literary job constructed and launched after a careful investigation into the historical facts. Its flight should be long.

Aviation  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

THE METROPOLIS OF TOMORROW—Hugh Ferriss—*Ives Washburn* (\$7.50). No one who has thought about the future of cities will wish to miss reading and viewing Mr. Ferriss' analyses and predictions, in words and impressive drawings.

Architecture  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

HISTORY AND MONUMENTS OF UR—C. J. Gadd—*Dutton* (\$4.85). A connected story of a colorful and significant city of the Near East, from the ancient times which are known as a result of the recent excavations, down through the reigns of many kings, and so to the last days of Ur, about the third century B. C. The author is on the staff of the British Museum. He prefaces his book with a statement of interest: "Less than a hundred years ago it would have been impossible to write any history at all of the ancient oriental lands; today a single city in but one of those lands furnishes matter for a volume." Certainly, the reader who follows the career of this single city will have a better idea of the political, racial, and social factors which shaped events in the ancient civilized world.

History  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

COLLEGE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY—E. Emmet Reid—*Van Nostrand* (\$3.75). As the preface says: "Organic chemistry is a mass of details, an immense collection of facts relative to hundreds of thousands of compounds, yet the relation of these facts to each other is so logical and their sequences so orderly that to understand the system is to remember the whole, as one remembers a cathedral without memorizing the stones of which it is built. Nearly all of the chemistry of carbon compounds can be deduced." And this is a comprehensive text for college use written by a professor of chemistry at Johns Hopkins University.

Chemistry  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

AIR LAW REVIEW—*N. Y. University School of Law*—(\$5). Where men go there the law must follow. As Vol. I, No. 1 of a new periodical, this is a testimonial of the growing importance of the youngest brother of the transportation family.

Law—Aviation  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

EXPERIMENTAL RADIO—R. R. Ramsey—*Ramsey Pub. Co.* (\$2.75). This is the first edition in printed form of a work that has previously been issued in two mimeographed editions. It is an excellent summary of interesting experiments connected with radio and includes such modern advances as television. Had the book been issued by one of the large publishing houses, they would not have permitted such a serious omission as the lack of an index, which mars an otherwise excellent work.

Radio  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

DICTIONARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS—F. S. Crispin—*Bruce Publishing* (\$1.25). First aid to students, mechanics, and workmen when they run upon common technical terms used in architecture, wood-working, building, electrical and metal work trades, chemistry, and other technologic arts and sciences.

General Science  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

DANCING CATALANS—John Langdon-Davies—*Harper* (\$2.50). The Catalans live in a sunny land bordering the Mediterranean, leading a happy, unhurried life, which has changed little in centuries. Mr. Langdon-Davies contrasts them with the Castilians, under whose laws they live, as well as with our modern world.

Ethnology  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*

A NARRATIVE HISTORY OF AVIATION—John Goldstrom—*Macmillan* (\$4). This journalistically written chronicle makes interesting reading. It is a little surprising in the opening paragraph to find the suggestion that some daring man of prehistoric time attempted to fly with a pterodactyl. To place man in the age of the giant reptiles is to make him some forty million years (with a most conservative chronology) earlier than the time at which Dr. Osborn believes pre-man split with the simian line.

Aviation  
*Science News-Letter, February 1, 1930*