

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

**ELECTRON PHYSICS**—J. Barton Hoag—*Van Nostrand* (\$3). Seldom does a new book so completely and adequately fill a vacancy as this. So rapid has been the advance of physical science in recent years that few books cover all of the experiments and discoveries concerned with the electron and its nature, while none hitherto has described the fundamental experiments in such a way that the student could repeat them. In this book Prof. Hoag describes such experiments as the determination of the charge of the electron by the oil drop method, measurements of the range of alpha, beta and gamma particles and even such a recent one as that of Davisson and Germer demonstrating the reflection of electrons, which has provided such strong experimental support of the theory of wave mechanics. Prof. Hoag's experience in this field with graduate students at the University of Chicago assures its practical value.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**THE HISTORY OF A CRIME AGAINST THE FOOD LAW**—Harvey W. Wiley—*Wiley* (\$2). Dr. Wiley, the father of the food and drug law, has written a brief account of how it was finally passed and of the changes in its present mode of enforcement from that which was originally intended. The story is told largely through the testimony given at the various hearings on the subject, with comments in Dr. Wiley's delightfully critical style.

*Chemistry—Nutrition*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**GLIMPSES INTO THE WORLD OF SCIENCE**—Edited by Mary G. Phillips and W. H. Geisler—*Heath* (80c.). A neatly published little book containing essays on various scientific topics by well-known authors, adapted for use as a collateral reader in schools, or for the general reader who wants something he can stick into his pocket and browse at from time to time.

*General Science*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**WINTER BOTANY**—William Trelease—*William Trelease, Urbana, Ill.* (\$2.50). A compact, pocket-size manual for the identification of trees and shrubs in winter. The clear-cut line illustrations, bringing out analytical points in buds, bark, pith and other structures, are especially useful.

*Botany*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**HEREDITY IN MAN**—R. Ruggles Gates—*Macmillan* (\$6). Human heredity has aroused considerable interest in recent years both on the part of the general public and the scientists. The increased knowledge on the subject has caused Dr. Gates to issue a completely revised edition of his book. In spite of the popularity of the subject the book is rather too technical for popular reading but will be of considerable interest to geneticists.

*Genetics*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**THE THIRD ROUTE**—Sir Philip Sassoon—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$3). The eyes of continental Europe, particularly England, still turn to India and the Orient. But, in the days before Columbus set sail for the Indies, a long sailing voyage around the Cape of Good Hope was necessary to reach Bombay. When steam conquered the sea and the Isthmus of Suez was cut by a ribbon of water, the Mediterranean and the Red Seas provided easier access. The third route of today is by air. In this book is a story of such an air cruise by the then British Under Secretary of State for Air.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**THE FIVE-DAY WEEK IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**—*National Industrial Conference Board* (\$1.50). To work or not to work on Saturday is the question discussed in this economic study. Factories with a large variety of output are now using some variation of the five-day week and this study by a leading investigational bureau summarizes facts and opinions.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**THE EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LEFT HANDEDNESS**—Ralph Haefner—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.* (\$1.50). A careful comparison of right-handed school children with left-handed children and some "betwixt-and-betweens" who learned to write with the right hand but were otherwise left-handed. No significant differences were found between the groups as regards physique, intelligence, scholarship, interests, or emotionality. A greater tendency to speech defects appears among left-handers who use the right hand for writing. A concluding chapter discusses educational implications of the problem.

*Psychology—Education*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**AIRPLANE MECHANICS RIGGING HANDBOOK**—Rutherford S. Hartz and Elzor E. Hall—*Ronald Press* (\$3.50). Those who service and perform the important function of keeping in good mechanical trim the ships of the air will benefit from this book.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**THE ECOLOGY OF TROUT STREAMS IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**—R. A. Muttkowski; and **THE FOOD OF TROUT STREAM INSECTS IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**—R. A. Muttkowski and G. M. Smith—*Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station* (\$1.25). These two studies, which constitute Vol. 2, No. 2 of the Roosevelt Wild Life Annals, are basic to an understanding and intelligent management of what is probably the most intensively fished and most copiously re-planted of the greater trout stream areas in this country.

*Ecology*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES**—Edited by Paul W. Garrett and Austin H. McCormick—*National Society of Penal Information* (\$4). How prisons should and should not be run is a topic of frequent and intense discussion among Americans. This handbook enables the reader to compare conditions in the various institutions, for its devotes generous space to each federal prison, and to each prison and adult reformatory of the forty-eight states.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HUMAN ANATOMY**—Robert James Terry—*Macmillan* (\$3.50). This text consists of directions for the medical student to follow in his dissection, with suggestive questions about the structures under discussion and references for supplementary reading.

*Anatomy*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

**WITCHES STILL LIVE**—Theda Kenyon—*Ives Washburn* (\$3.50). The author tells us about love charms, witchcraft murders, the gospel of witches, the casting of spells, and other strange matters, and the material collected is mostly from contemporary beliefs and customs. According to her statement, more than half the people in the world today believe in occult powers the basis of which is the old cult of witchcraft.

*Ethnology*  
*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

## First Glances At New Books—Continued

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH — Robert Calvert—*Chemical Catalog Co.* With this, the Chemical Catalog Company adds another book to its highly valuable series getting into single volumes all the pertinent information about materials of value or interest in chemical manufacturing processes. The beds of diatomaceous earth, laid down ages ago by inconceivable numbers of silica-skeletoned plants, play a very large part in the production of modern absorbents, cements and abrasives.

*Chemistry*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

LINCOLN LIBRARY OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION—*Frontier Press* (\$15.50). As a compendium of all knowledge this volume of over two thousand pages will not replace the larger encyclopedias, but it should prove helpful and valuable to those who wish to have in small compass a reference book of general information. The science sections seem to be compiled with intelligence and care.

*Reference*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RADIO—R. R. Ramsey—*Ramsey Pub. Co.* (\$3.50). An excellent textbook of radio written so that a minimum of mathematics is required for its comprehension. Though intended for use as a text, it will also be of value to the amateur who wants to know more of how the radio works.

*Radio*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

WHY WE ARE WHAT WE ARE—Theodore Hubert Larson—*American Endocrine Bureau* (\$10). The long-suffering endocrine glands are again the subject of a pseudo-scientific book intended for popular reading. The author of this volume has a theory of "endocrine exchange" by which he explains and defines various "types" of men and women. A smattering of scientific terms and facts are used to express this highly unscientific theory.

*Endocrinology*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

EAST AFRICAN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM—Arthur Loveridge—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (25c). This publication, Bulletin 151 of the U. S. National Museum, will be of interest chiefly to systematic zoologists.

*Zoology*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

SKY TRAVEL—A. Ralph and Margaret Romer—*Rand McNally* (\$1.48). A textbook for graded schools introducing children to the facts of aviation by the story method.

*Aviation*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

STUDY OF THE WHEAT SITUATION, AUGUST TO NOVEMBER, 1929—M. K. Bennett and others—*Food Research Institute, Stanford University, Calif.* This most recent number of the Wheat Studies series discusses cereal crops of 1929, marketing and stocks, international trade, wheat price movements, and the outlook for trade, carry-overs and prices. The gist of world statistics on wheat for the period covered is given in an appendix of tables.

*Economics*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

A SYSTEMATIC CLASSIFICATION FOR THE BIRDS OF THE WORLD—Alexander Wetmore—*Smithsonian Institution*. This little reprint—of only eight pages—will be a useful working tool for many zoologists, for it arranges in order of natural relationship all known families of living and fossil birds.

*Ornithology*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE—A. Frederick Collins—*Appleton* (\$2). In this latest book by one of the most prolific authors of educational yet entertaining books for young people, Mr. Collins describes a number of physical experiments, all of which can be performed with the simplest apparatus. Just the book for that nephew (or niece) with a scientific turn of mind.

*Physics*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

IN ANIMAL LAND—Mabel Guinnip LaRue—*Macmillan* (80c). Nicely illustrated animal bedtime stories in big print for little folks.

*Children's Stories*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

PATHOGENIC MICROORGANISMS — William Hallock Park, Anna Wessels Williams and Charles Krumwiede—*Lea and Febiger* (\$6.50). The ninth edition of this standard text has been enlarged and revised to include the latest knowledge of scarlet fever, yellow fever, measles, undulant fever, tularemia, complement fixation, etc. The book will be welcomed by the many workers in medical bacteriology.

*Bacteriology—Medicine*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

GENERAL COLLEGE PHYSICS—Harrison M. Randall, Neil H. Williams and Walter F. Colby—*Harpers* (\$3.50). Three Michigan professors have here produced a book that has already proved its value through its use in their courses in mimeographed form. It is well written and up to date, and treats the fundamental principles from a modern viewpoint.

*Physics*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

STOCK-POISONING PLANTS OF THE RANGE—C. D. Marsh—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (35c). The facts about what plants are poisonous and what the effects of these plants are, have been so confused by conflicting reports, arguments and sheer superstition that the appearance of this pamphlet (U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 1245) will be most welcome to both plant student and practical stockman.

*Botany—Animal Husbandry*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

HOOKWORM DISEASE—Asa C. Chandler—*Macmillan* (\$5). The author has coordinated the work of modern investigators with the older knowledge of the subject, giving a complete account of the disease with methods of diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control. Public health officers, sanitarians and physicians practicing in tropical regions will undoubtedly welcome this volume.

*Medicine*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (30c). Among the most fundamental standards of daily life are those used in the calibration of yardsticks and scales by which the over-the-counter commodities of merchants are measured. Each year the officials of cities and states charged with inspecting measuring and weighing devices on behalf of the public, meet at the National Bureau of Standards.

*Measurements*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*

PLANT MATERIALS OF DECORATIVE GARDENING: THE WOODY PLANTS—William Trelease—*William Trelease, Urbana, Ill.* (\$1.25). Generic descriptions, with keys to species, of the principal shrubs and trees useful for ornamental plantings.

*Biology*

*Science News-Letter, February 15, 1930*