

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

PALEOLITHIC MAN AND NILE-FAIYUM DIVIDE—K. S. Sandford and W. J. Arkell—*University of Chicago Press* (\$5). This is not a thick book, but its seventy-odd pages and dozen plates record one of the most important pieces of research that has ever been done in that much-worked-over land, Egypt. For in it the authors tell, in straightforward, orderly fashion, of the final complete bridging of the gap between the time when there were no men in Egypt and the beginning of the Neolithic, whence the record has already been carried forward by an army of other workers. Hitherto the story of the Old Stone Age on the Nile has been fragmentary and confused; now it is complete and well-arranged, and back of it stands equally complete and well-arranged the geological history of the cutting of the Nile valley itself, with its important adjunct the Faiyum basin.

Archæology—Geology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

HEALTH INVENTORY OF NEW YORK CITY—Michael M. Davis and Mary C. Jarrett—*Welfare Council of New York City* (\$2). The study was made with the aim of finding a way to increase the efficiency of the health service of New York City. This report should be extremely useful to health workers and directors of health services, both public and private, all over the country. While the study includes both public and private agencies, it is limited to preventive work and does not take up the curative branch of health service.

Public Health
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

FUNDAMENTALS OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY—Ida Morris Gast and Harley Clay Skinner—*Sanborn* (\$2). In these days when psychology is being applied to educational processes so rapidly and extensively, a text such as this is a practical little volume indeed. Here is a level-headed, up-to-date discussion of intelligence and intelligence tests. Here, too, are chapters on the gifted child, on the learning process, habit, attention and interest, memory, and other psychological matters which the teacher deals with every day, for better or worse. The plan of citing at the foot of the page the references from which incidents and figures are taken enables the reader to look up further information with a minimum of difficulty.

Education—Psychology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

GEOPHYSICAL METHODS OF PROSPECTING—C. A. Heiland—*Colorado School of Mines* (\$1). A very informative review of the recently developed ways man has devised for detecting information about location and extent of the deposits of valuable substances beneath the earth's surface. Some theory is given in semi-technical fashion, and actual accomplishment is emphasized. Gravity, magnetic, radioactive, geothermal, seismic, and electrical methods are considered.

Geophysics
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

RATTLING THE CUP ON CHICAGO CRIME—Edward D. Sullivan—*Vanguard Press* (\$2). Those who have been wondering "what all the shooting's for" in Chicago will find out by reading this very interesting book. Mr. Sullivan has given an illuminating picture of Chicago's politics, rackets and gangs, including the philosophies of Scarface Al Capone and Big Bill Thompson, Chicago's mayor. The book is written in a delightful style which makes it easy reading even for those who are not directly interested in criminology and sociology. The book also furnishes a striking commentary on prohibition.

Criminology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

THE PASSING OF NORMALCY—Charles W. Wood—*Forbes* (\$3). With Marion, Ohio, the home of President Harding, as the example, Mr. Wood made a sociological study of American life today. Unlike the now famous study of Middletown in the same state, the author relies less upon statistics and more upon his conversations and impressions. The publisher's blurb says that the author "points out that business has replaced the family as the dominant institution of society and that business, for its own good, must make a serious study of its new role."

Economics—Sociology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

THE BIRD BOOK—Charles P. Shoffner—*Manson* (\$2). This is a rather unusual book on birds, combining features of the elementary textbook with features of the popular book of general information about birds. Its lists of review questions at the chapter ends, covering all features of avian natural history, will be found especially valuable for classroom and nature study club use.

Ornithology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

FLORA OF THE HERMIT SHALE, GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA—David White—*Carnegie Institution* (\$2.50 paper; \$3.50 cloth). In this publication Dr. White sums up the results of several years of collection and research in an important Permian fossiliferous shale in the Grand Canyon. It was virgin territory he explored, for neither its true age nor its fossil-bearing character was known before 1915. The collections have therefore yielded many new species. Some of these are assignable to new genera. In his nomenclature, Dr. White has been very happy in his adapting local geographic names: *Supaia*, *Yakia*, *Eltovaria*, etc. The genus *Supaia* seems to be especially well developed, comprising eleven, or possibly twelve species. The author's brief discussion of the evidence of the fossil plants as to climate will be of interest to students of paleoecology.

Paleobotany
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

TOBACCO AND ITS USE IN AFRICA—B. Laufer, W. D. Hambly and R. Linton—*Field Museum* (25c). The natives of Africa may not have known of the "miraculous weed" until post-Columbian times, but since then they certainly have shown themselves expert and ingenious in devising methods for extracting enjoyment from it. One of the illustrations in this interesting booklet shows a Negro smoking his musket!

Ethnology
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

FLOW OF WATER IN DRAINAGE CHANNELS—C. E. Ramser—*U. S. Government Printing Office*—(40c). This technical bulletin 129 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture contains knowledge gained by hydraulic engineers through years of experience. Ramser has accurately determined the coefficient, n , of Kutter's formula for all kinds of open channels. The types of channels are so well illustrated and described that it is comparatively easy to find one similar to a given problem.

Hydraulic Engineering
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930

HOW TO FLY—Barrett Studley—*Macmillan* (\$3). Not a history of the romance of aviation, but a book that aspiring pilots will wish to read. It is evolved from the manual of the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Florida, written by Lieut. Studley.

Aviation
Science News-Letter, March 1, 1930