

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

FLOWERS AND FLOWERING PLANTS—Raymond J. Pool—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3.50). This is a book for which the teaching botanist has been waiting for a long time. It puts into complete and ordered form all the wealth of the Besseyan doctrine in flower organography and phylogeny. The Besseyan method of exposition by means of diagrammatic formulae is used to good advantage; one chart will give botanists something to chew upon for a good many hours. There are hundreds of beautifully clear line drawings that help to make the book attractive and give point and vividness to the text.

Botany

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

MOTION PICTURES AND ILLUSTRATED LECTURES—*General Electric Co.* (Gratis). A 27-page list of interesting reels of motion pictures and sets of lantern slides that portray the widespread activities of the General Electric Co. The ultra-modern school that is equipped with talking movie equipment can hear and see such prominent scientists as Dr. Irving Langmuir and Dr. C. W. Hewlett lecturing on oil films on water, atomic hydrogen welding, and the rays of radium; for 16 of the films have synchronized sound with the photophone system. The other reels are available both in 35 and 16 mm. film; while many of the lectures, which have the printed text with them, are on either glass or film slides. All material is supplied free for educational purposes. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Visual Instruction Section of the General Electric Co. at Schenectady, N. Y.

Motion Pictures—Education

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE SEA—H. A. Marmer—*Appleton* (\$3). The assistant chief of the division of tides and currents of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has here produced the only modern popular book on oceanography in English. Whether one's contact with the sea comes from crossing it, from spending summer vacations on its edges, or even from reading about it, he will be interested in this book, which covers such attractive topics as "The Sea of Ancient Times," "Legendary Isles," "The Sargasso Sea," "The Gulf Stream," "The Depths of the Sea" and "Ice in the Sea."

Oceanography

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE AND RESEARCH—Griffith Taylor—*Appleton* (\$2). As Prof. Taylor, of the University of Chicago, who was with Scott on his last expedition, says in his preface: "Never has so much interest been taken in Antarctic exploration as at present." This book has been written for those whose interest in the Antarctic has been whetted by the reports of the Byrd, Wilkins and other recent Antarctic expeditions. It is a comprehensive yet concise and readable story of what man knows about the great South Polar regions. Prof. Taylor's book is one of the first two books of the *Appleton New World of Science Series*, edited under the auspices of Science Service, and it is the March selection of the Scientific Book Club.

Exploration

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

QUANTUM MECHANICS—Edward U. Condon and Philip M. Morse—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3). This might well be the book that an English astronomer referred to when he said: "How I want a drink, alcoholic of course, after the heavy chapters involving quantum mechanics." (*SCIENCE NEWS-LETTER*: Dec. 14, 1929; p. 369). The chapters are heavy enough but to anyone who gives them the study they require, the reward will be a better understanding of one of the most important phases of modern physics.

Physics

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE THEORY OF INTEREST—Irving Fisher—*Macmillan* (\$6). In 1907, Prof. Irving Fisher wrote "The Rate of Interest." This new volume, which is the result of many years' labor in rewriting his previous book, expounds Prof. Fisher's economic ideas. Various sections of the book are cleverly aimed at different types of persons. For instance "readers with a distaste for mathematics" can read the essential theory stated in words. Prof. Fisher sees the theory of interest as determined by impatience to spend income and opportunity to invest it.

Economics

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

ROMANCE OF THE MACHINE—Michael Pupin—*Scribner's* (\$1). Three essays in praise of the machine comprise this book by a great engineer and inventor.

Essays

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY—Clark Wissler—*Holt* (\$3.50). Fundamentals of the science of studying primitive peoples, explained in careful detail by one of the best known American specialists in this field. Dr. Wissler has not been particularly concerned with cramming his book full of facts about the customs of the world's "types." That information may be obtained in many places. A good deal of it slips naturally and incidentally into the various chapters. But Dr. Wissler's approach to the subject is rather to show what anthropology is about, what the men and women who pursue this line of knowledge are trying to do, precisely how they go about it, what they have so far accomplished and what goals lie ahead. His text thus becomes a handbook of the most usable sort.

Anthropology

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE PICTURE MAP OF FRANCE—Harold Haven Brown—*R. R. Bowker Co.* (\$2.50). Those whose taste runs to maps as wall decorations will like this. Famous buildings of France border the sides of the sheet and there is a scattering of pictures over the face of the map itself. The geographic features of the country have not been skimmed by this ornamentation; on the contrary, rivers and mountains, provinces and towns are clearly located, and in addition special attention is given to marking the "places famous in history, legend, literature, and art." A map of Paris is an inset in one corner.

Geography

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

FIRST COURSE IN ALGEBRA—Fred Engelhardt and Leonard D. Haerter—*Winston* (\$1.36). A new textbook for the use of students in the first year of high school in which the work is organized about the problems to be solved, while use is stressed throughout.

Mathematics

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE DIAGNOSIS OF HEALTH—William R. P. Emerson—*Appleton* (\$3). Methods of health education used at Dartmouth College and elsewhere are given in this book which will be useful to health teachers, parents and older students.

Health Education

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

First Glances at New Books—Continued

THE EARTH FOR SAM—W. Maxwell Reed—*Harcourt, Brace* (\$3.50). We have to thank a small boy, the nephew of the author, for this volume, at once delightful and illuminating. The boy in question, an inquisitive nephew, fired innumerable questions, and the corpus of information needed for satisfactory answers, worked into smooth-running exposition, forms the text. The "serious" illustrations are drawn from the most approved adult geological works and museums, and as for the joyously frivolous line drawings by Karl Moseley—well, it is safe to prophesy that if you buy this book for your own nephew or son, he won't get a chance at the book until you have looked at all of them.

Geology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

RURAL SOCIAL SCIENCE—Gustav A. Lundquist & Clyde B. Moore—*Ginn* (\$1.72). Designed to give students in rural secondary schools an idea of the significance of the life going on around them and to suggest to them ways of bettering rural living conditions.

Sociology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

CRIME IN INK—Claire Carvalho and Boyden Sparkes—*Scribner* (\$2.50). Real detective stories, as engrossing as any dressed in the guise of fiction, and all hinging on the identification of handwriting. The handwriting expert of the book is David N. Carvalho, whose skill at detecting forgeries and other deceptions in writing played a dramatic part in the Dreyfus case and many other mysterious happenings.

Criminology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

GEOGRAPHY SOUTHERN LANDS—Harlan H. Barrows, Edith Putnam Parker, Margaret Terrell Parker—*Silver, Burdett* (\$1.25). The way of telling as well as what is to be told is important. This fourth of a series of geographies for elementary grades, completes the journey around the world.

Geography
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICE IN AMERICAN PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES—Frank L. Rector—*National Society of Penal Information* (\$2.50). This survey of conditions during 1929 will be of especial interest to penologists and sociologists.

Penal Hygiene
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS—C. J. Brockman—*Ginn* (\$2). Chemists brought up in the old school will not recognize a laboratory in which qualitative analysis is being taught by Dr. Brockman's method, for the familiar odor of H₂S will be lacking. By eliminating all gaseous precipitations, this method saves valuable time for the student and teacher. It uses high concentrations of the various reagents, which is also an advantage, according to the author.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

WEATHER AND WHY—Ienar E. Elm—*McKay* (\$2.50). A new book on meteorology written by an aviator for the use of aviators, both as a textbook for ground school work and for home study. Elements of particular interest to pilots are emphasized, but the book will be of interest to anyone who wants a modern and popular book on the subject.

Meteorology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

MODERN COSMOLOGIES—Hector Macpherson—*Oxford* (\$2.75). A historical sketch of the theories and researches on the structure of the universe from the time of Herschel down to Hubble and the final proof of the island universe theory. The author brings forth evidence to show that Herschel did not, as Proctor believed, recede from his ideas of the universe as a flat disc.

Astronomy
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

STUDIES IN MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHING—American and Canadian Committee on Modern Language—*Macmillan* (\$1.75). Modern language teaching is one of the many problems of present day education. In twelve articles, this volume prepared under the auspices of the Modern Foreign Language Study and the Canadian Committee on Modern Languages considers various phases from the history of language teaching to the prevalence and utility of modern foreign language requirements for degrees.

Language
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

DEPOSITION OF THE SEDIMENTARY ROCKS—J. E. Marr—*Macmillan* (\$2.40). A book on a special aspect of dynamic and structural geology which will be of exceedingly great service in both teaching and field work.

Geology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

PLANT COMPETITION—F. E. Clements, John E. Weaver and H. C. Hanson—*Carnegie Institution* (pa., \$3.25; cl., \$4.25). Each of the three authors brings to the common task a special aptitude and training, and the result in this book is a most critical and searching examination of the factors of competition among plants, which will be of exceedingly great value in the development of ecological science in this country during the coming decade. It is well recognized among plant ecologists that the pioneer phase of purely descriptive studies has had its day, and that quantitative methods must be developed. The senior author of the present work was one of the first workers in this field, and the newer developments of his and his associates' methods, as well as those of European ecologists, particularly the Swiss, are becoming standard procedure.

Plant Ecology
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE PROBLEM OF WEAK RAILROADS—James M. Herring—*University of Pennsylvania Press* (\$3). An academic study of railroads in the United States from their wartime operation by the government to the present. Those actively concerned with the future of transportation will be most interested. Dr. Herring calls the preservation of the most needed of some 600 small, weak rail carriers, which are not paying, "a fundamental part of the problem of providing adequate transportation."

Transportation
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS—U. S. Government Printing Office (5c). What is the matter with sound movies at your favorite theater or why is the preacher so hard to understand? If poor acoustics is the reason, this circular No. 380 of the U. S. Bureau of Standards will point out the specific cause and the remedy. Only eight pages.

Physics—Architecture
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

LILAC CULTURE—J. C. Wister—*Orange Judd* (\$1.25). A compact, pocket-size book that will be of use to the home-owner, the practical gardener and the teacher of classes in the elements of horticulture.

Horticulture
Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930