

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

SALVAGING OLD AGE—Lillian J. Martin and Clare de Gruchy—*Macmillan*, 173 pp., \$2. "The tragedy of old age is its unhappiness," declare the authors of this wise little book. Dr. Martin, who is seventy-eight, has met her own problem by conducting a clinic for old people since her retirement from Stanford University. She has studied this period of life, just as other specialists have studied childhood or adolescence. The psychological problems, particularly the mental hygiene, of growing old happily and usefully are stressed by the authors.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

ACES OF THE AIR—Joseph L. French—*McLoughlin Bros.*, 316 pp., \$1. Magazine articles on aviation exploits during the past two years have been assembled to form this volume.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

AN HOUR OF PHYSICS—E. N. da C. Andrade—*Lippincott*, 160 pp., \$1. A new addition to the rapidly growing library of popular works on physics, in which a prominent English scientific writer tells what he can about the quantum theory, radiation, atomic structure, etc., without the aid of mathematics. The lack of an index is a serious defect.

Physics

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE GRASSES OF CENTRAL AMERICA—A. S. Hitchcock—*U. S. Government Printing Office*, 205 pp., 35c. Prof. Hitchcock here continues the excellent work by which he has been making American botanists generally, and agronomists in particular, lastingly his debtors.

Botany

Science News-Letter, March 29, 1930

THE HEREDISCOPE—O. F. Cooke—*American Genetic Association* \$3. This is not a book, but it will be more useful than many books in the teaching of the mysteries of mendelism to the younger student. It is a kind of game board, with colored counters to represent unit characters, a teetotum to assume the role of the Gods of Biological Chance, and a diagram to trace the movement of chromosomes from generation to generation. It turns the dry and abstract discussion of heredity.

Genetics

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

ALL ABOUT PETS—Margery Bianco—*Macmillan*, 134 pp., \$2. Dogs and cats, rabbits, mice and guinea pigs, canaries and goldfish—how to select them, train them and care for them, and by what means you can best develop their several capacities for friendship.

Animal Husbandry

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

AERONAUTICAL LAW—W. Jefferson Davis—*Parker, Stone & Baird Co.* 541 pp., \$10. Now that it is the subject of an imposing legal volume, aviation must really be convinced that it is growing up. The same author also recently brought together in a similar way the laws and cases relating to radio.

Aviation Law

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE FORAMINIFERA OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, PART 7—J. A. Cushman—*U. S. Government Printing Office*, 129 pp., 35c. Comprises the Nonionidae, Camerinidae, Peneroplidae and Alveolinellidae.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

MAGNETISM—Edmund C. Stoner—*Dutton*, 177 pp., \$1.10. In this series of monographs on physical subjects, edited in England, one finds in small compass many excellent summaries of the latest knowledge on important topics. This book on magnetism is fully up to the high standards of the series and, though quite technical, will be of value to readers with the necessary preparation.

Physics

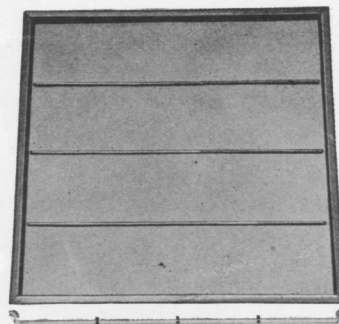
Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

STANDARDS YEARBOOK 1930—Bureau of Standards—*Government Printing Office*, 401 pp., 75c. Standardization provides a common language for the products of modern industry. The National Bureau of Standards cooperating like other federal departments and commercial organizations is America's leader in achieving helpful and beneficial uniformity of products and conditions of testing products. This latest edition summarizes the activities of trade associations as well as projects of national and international scope.

Standardization

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

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First Glances at New Books—Continued

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. Vol. I Aar-All—Editor-in-Chief, Edwin R. A. Seligman—*Macmillan*, 646 pp., \$7.50. Those who become interested in any of the sciences that deal with society and its institutions soon realize that all these sciences are closely inter-dependent. The case of a single delinquent may be a problem of law, economics, sociology, education, psychiatry. To provide an authoritative reference work on the social aspects of science, this combination dictionary and handbook is being published. The work is sponsored by ten learned societies of this country. It is designed partly for the scholar who may wish reference information on social sciences allied to his own specialty; also for the intelligent layman who is keeping abreast of recent investigation. Three volumes of the work will appear each year, and there will be fifteen in all. A large portion of this first volume is given to introductory articles on the development of social thought and institutions and on the social sciences in various countries.

Social Science

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

EVERYBODY'S GARDEN—Frank A. Waugh—*Orange Judd*, 396 pp., \$3.50. A book for home gardeners, no matter what size their gardens. It gives counsel on what to plant and where and how, on how to take care of shrubs and herbs and trees; it comments on taste and administers gentle reproof here and there for the shortcomings we Americans have not yet overcome. All round, a desirable book.

Horticulture

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REFERENCES—U. S. Government Printing Office, 26 pp., 10c. Volumes have been written about weights and measures. This miscellaneous publication No. 103 of the U. S. Bureau of Standards is a bibliography of "published material relating to the subject of weights and measures standards and administration."

Standards

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE BY GRADES: BOOK ONE—Ellis C. Persing and Elizabeth K. Peeples—*Appleton*, 128 pp., 72c. The beginnings of knowledge in nature study, astronomy, physics and so on, in words of very few syllables for budding scientists of very few birthdays.

General Science

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

RIDING THE AIR WAVES WITH ERIC PALMER, JR.—*Horace Liveright*, 329 pp., \$2. This is the story of a "ham," one of the thousands of amateur radio operators who talk in code and by voice to all the corners of the globe through the medium of their own radio stations. Like many amateur radio operators, the author is a mere youth in age. After you have read his story you will be tempted to make a corner for yourself in the ether.

Radio

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

JUMP—Don Glassman—*Simon and Schuster*, 321 pp., \$3. The thrill of the forced parachute jump from a disabled airplane is that of a good old-fashioned shipwreck enhanced by the speed and appeal of a new mode of transportation. Anyone who saves his life through a parachute jump from a disabled aircraft automatically joins the caterpillar club, an informal organization of over 200. "Jump" is the story of their initiation.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION—Richard Wilhelm—*Viking Press*, 284 pp., \$4. A convenient and interesting survey of China's cultural development by a German professor who has spent many years in China and has made that country his specialty. Prof. Wilhelm sums up his book admirably in the preface, where he states his aim to be: "no tedious enumeration of dates, wars, and sovereigns, but as clear an account as possible of the forces responsible for the various periods of Chinese civilization and culture, making the treatment of each subject more or less detailed in accordance with its cultural significance." The history ends with the coming of Europeans into China. The translation is by Joan Joshua.

History

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE GALL WASP GENUS CYNIPS—Alfred C. Kinsey—*Indiana University* 577 pp., \$2.50. Besides being a thorough-going monograph covering the taxonomic aspects of a difficult insect group, this book is a study in the origin of species. Often the intensive study of the morphology and distribution of a limited group of organisms will suggest solutions not to be found in a wider but more superficial survey of the world of living things.

Entomology—Evolution

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE PARIS GUN—Henry W. Miller—*Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith* 288 pp., \$3.75. In presenting this collation of all obtainable facts about the long-range guns (for there were really seven of them in all) that shelled Paris during the spring and early summer of 1918, Col. Miller functions excellently in a three-fold capacity. He is a soldier, and specifically an officer of ordnance, in his close and meticulous attention to technical detail. He is a historian in showing the planned relation of the bombardment of Paris to the great German "peace offensive" of 1918. Finally, he is a most successful science popularizer, for his presentation is vivid and easily understandable, giving the essential facts without swamping the reader in technical language.

Military History

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE BURGESS SEASHORE BOOK FOR CHILDREN—Thornton W. Burgess—*Little, Brown*, 336 pp., \$3. A book of seashore lore for children, written in the "animal-talking" style which Burgess has made so popular. The illustrations, though clear and accurate, seem rather too technical to fit properly with the text.

Children's Stories

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

ETHNOLOGY OF AFRICA—Wilfred D. Hambly—*Field Museum of Natural History*, 268 pp., \$1.50. This thick little paper-back book is written as a guide for use of visitors and students who may tarry with special interest in the African hall of the Field Museum. The book, however, is complete enough in itself without reference to the exhibits to make satisfactory reading about the native tribes of Africa, their appearance, culture, and problems.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930

THE ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS OF SUMER AND AKKAD—George A. Barton—*Yale University Press*, 406 pp., \$6.50. Royal inscriptions are among the great treasures recovered from Kish, Ur, and other ruined cities of ancient Babylonia. The discoveries have not yet been sufficient to enable scholars to build into history a complete sequence of kings and their careers, but this important volume brings together the large number of texts and their translations now available. The volume is the first of a series entitled "Library of Ancient Semitic Inscriptions" published for the American Oriental Society.

History—Philology

Science News-Letter, April 19, 1930