

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE BOOK OF BIRD LIFE—A. A. Allen—*Van Nostrand*, 426 p., \$3.50. Prof. Allen has been one of the country's most successful practitioners of the gentle but difficult art of living with birds, and in this book he gives us the first fruits of his love and labor. The reader, if at all sympathetic, is made to feel that he has not merely read something *about* birds; he has for the moment at least undergone an identification with them. And this without the loss of the true naturalist's "feel" and the true scientist's clean-cut knowledge.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE JAW-BREAKER'S ALPHABET—Eunice and Janet Tietjens—*Albert and Charles Boni*, 111 pp., \$3.50. An ABC book of paleontology, mostly concerned with saurians. The rimes are sometimes clever, but the real charm of the book lies in the peculiar, white-on-black illustrations, which combine a considerable degree of scientific faithfulness with good design.

Humerous Paleontology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE PARACHOR AND VALENCY—Samuel Sugden—*Knopf*, 224 pp., \$4. The parachor is a measure of the volume of atoms and molecules corrected for the influence of internal pressure. The hypothesis is made that shared and unshared electrons make the same contribution to the parachor of molecules. Values can be obtained representing the parachors of the atoms and of the various known types of bonds, such as double bonds, triple bonds, etc. From these parachors the parachors of some 267 substances have been calculated and compared with the values obtained from measurements. The agreement is very satisfactory. Existing information concerning valency relations is brought together and discussed. The bearing of the parachor upon valency is then discussed. A chapter is added on the experimental methods used for obtaining the data from which the values of the parachor can be calculated. The facts presented concerning the parachor are worthy of study. The method of calculation used in deriving the parachor assumes that the contribution to the parachor of linkages such as exist between carbon and hydrogen atoms is zero. This is possibly an unfortunate interpretation of the facts.

Physical Chemistry

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

GUIDING THE CHILD—Alfred Adler and associates—*Greenberg*, 268 pp., \$3. Tells of the methods used and results achieved at the twenty-eight child guidance clinics in Vienna, which are operated under the leadership of Dr. Adler. The Individual Psychology sponsored by Adler stresses the therapy of encouragement and aims to stimulate in the child a feeling of responsibility. Different types of child problems and different angles of the clinic technique are discussed by the physicians and educators connected with these Viennese clinics. There is a chapter by Dr. Adler himself, showing his handling of a single case in detail.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE ALIEN IN OUR MIDST—Edited by Madison Grant and Chas. Stewart Davison—*Galton*, 238 pp., \$3. The opinions of many prominent Americans, including the founders of the republic as well as living statesmen, politicians, business men, and scientists on the engrossing subject of immigration. They, to quote the editors, "all are of a mind—that the introduction of discordant elements into our body politic is fraught with danger."

Immigration-Genetics

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE LIFE OF BIRDS—E. F. Daglish—*Morrow*, 236 p., \$3. A completely written popular discussion of the natural history of birds, illustrated with black and white drawings in a most interesting style.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE ALISHAR HUYUK, SEASON OF 1927—H. H. von der Osten and Erich F. Schmidt—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 284 pp., \$8. The first of two profusely illustrated volumes, presenting important discoveries made in the first season of excavation at this site of old Hittite civilization. The expedition by the Oriental Institute has been the first to reclaim pottery from the various levels of an undisturbed Hittite mound, thus providing a key to the chronology of these little-known inhabitants of the Near East. Buildings and the fortifications of the mound are described in this volume, as well as the pottery. The second volume, to follow, will deal with seals, coins, bone and metal objects, and the burials.

Archaeology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

THE TITANOTHERES OF ANCIENT WYOMING, DAKOTA AND NEBRASKA—Henry Fairfield Osborn—*U. S. Government Printing Office*, 2 vols., \$8. This work is one of the relatively few members of the annual flood of books that really deserve the too-frequently-applied adjective "monumental." For it sums up and concludes many years of work by the author on the remains of these weird and gigantic beasts that once roamed our West—labors wherein Dr. Osborn qualified as undisputed master of the workers in this particular field of paleontology and built a reputation that will endure far beyond the lifetime of his own generation. In nearly a thousand pages of text and over two hundred plates, he sets forth simply everything now known about titanotheres of the plains region. The literature on the subject now begins with this book. In addition to the exhaustive treatment of American titanotheres, there is a briefer section on the eocene and oligocene titanotheres of Mongolia.

Paleontology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY—Bernard C. Ewer—*Macmillan*, 436 pp., \$2.25. A simply written text, for students or general readers, on the problems of the human being versus society. The physiological mechanisms that link with mental processes are taken for granted, and the author deals in the shorthand terms of motives, instincts, learning, conflicts. The importance of thought as a social function is emphasized.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

CHEMICAL DICTIONARY—Ingo W. D. Hackh—*Blakiston's*, 790 pp., \$10. The first chemical dictionary in English in a century, this volume will find a ready welcome and a wide use among chemists and students. There is some inconsistency in the terminology and a few errors have crept in. However, it is probably 99 per cent. correct and may be safely recommended as a good usable work.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930

LABORATORY EXERCISES IN ZOOLOGY—W. M. Barrows—*World Book Co.*, 103 p., 48c. A well-planned laboratory manual that looks as though it ought to work.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, May 3, 1930