

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

JUNGLE PORTRAITS—Delia Akeley—*Macmillan*, 251 pp., \$3.50. Mrs. Akeley is an excellent story teller. With swift and easy style she carries the reader into her adventures with animals and with interesting people among the native tribes. Just as the natives she describes are personalities, not merely types, so the baboons and flamingoes and other creatures of the jungle are real individuals, with temperaments very decidedly pronounced. Mrs. Akeley has made four expeditions to Africa, one trip with no white companions at all, and she is now in that country again living among the pygmies.

Exploration—Travel
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

ENGLISH HISTORY—George H. Locke—*Amer. Library Assn.*, 55 pp., 35c. A brief introduction and a guide to a few of the best books on English history. A new pamphlet in the "Reading with a Purpose" series.

History
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

STEAM TABLES AND MOLLIER DIAGRAM—Joseph H. Keenan—*American Society Mechanical Engineers*, 63 pp. America's most advanced knowledge of what steam will do at temperatures and pressures even higher than those used in the newest super-power plants is presented. Steam at 1000° Fahrenheit and 3000 pounds pressure, as described in the tables, is not the simple understandable substance it was when just 400° hot and compressed to only 200 pounds, the applied limit for years. But recently man has dared to heat it hotter, compress it closer and make it do more work for him. The tables are the first in the United States to give engineers complete information of the range of temperature and pressure now in use, based on experimental data rather than calculated values. It is expected that more correct tables will be derived from further experiments and international cooperation.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

HOLIDAY MEADOW—Edith M. Patch—*Macmillan*, 165 pp., \$2. It is a book for children, or rather for a grown-up to read to children; but it does not fall into the all-too-common mortal sin of using baby-talk either in language or in ideas. This makes it a most refreshing book.

Nature Study
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

BECAUSE I STUTTER—Wendell Johnson—*Appleton*, 127 pp., \$1.50. Even when he isn't saying anything, the stutterer is reacting to life as a stutterer. This unusual little human document explains how this may be, and, what is more to the point, how one man has met the psychological problem of being a stutterer in a world of glib-tongued associates. By focussing his talents and intelligence, this stutterer prevented his speech defect from warping and dwarfing his personality. The author, besides being a stutterer, has had training in psychology and has taken part in numerous investigations of speech at the State University of Iowa.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

WINGS, THE A B C OF FLYING—W. Lockwood Marsh—*Vanguard*, 138 pp., 75c. Most of the books on aviation that have appeared in the last year are devoted entirely to airplanes, but this volume of English origin utilizes half its pages describing airships.

Aviation
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

THE AMERICAN YEAR BOOK, 1929—*American Year Book Corporation*, 884 pp., \$7.50. No other annual compilation so promptly, exhaustively, and authoritatively presents a picture of contemporaneous American progress as the American Year Book. This year's issue has the sponsorship of 46 national learned societies, and the contributions from 196 authorities. It will be particularly useful on the general reference shelf because it combines within one cover summaries of science and technology with those in government, literature, religion and other fields of human endeavor.

Reference
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

STEAM GENERATION STEPS AHEAD—G. B. Gould—*Fuel Engineering Company*, 101 pp., \$1. Not all the power the world uses is produced in mammoth plants. There is a considerable group of industrial steam plants between five hundred and five thousand horse-power whose efficiency must keep as close pace with the big plants as is economically desirable. This little book will help the industrial executive get the most power for the least money.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

SITKA—Barrett Willoughby—*Houghton Mifflin*, 233 pp., \$3. Alaska of the days when Russian governors ruled is here backgrounded by modern young Alaska of today. Miss Willoughby views the past through the stories of the descendants of those who lived in those days when Alaskans drank to the Czar. Her book combines historical romance with travel information.

Geography
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

A HISTORY OF MODERN TIMES—D. M. Ketelbey—*Crowell*, 623 pp., \$3.75. A six-hundred page narration of the rise of democracy in the world. The story begins in 1789 with the beginning of the French revolution and the United States of America. It is entertainingly and dramatically told.

History
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930

GAUGES AND FINE MEASUREMENTS—F. R. Rolt—*Macmillan*, 2 volumes: 366 + 357 pp., \$14.50. Mass production, so important in this industrial civilization, rests upon the basis of accurate measurements. The introduction to this monumental two-volume work explains that measurements of millionths of an inch are not "a mere academic *tour de force* of the standardizing laboratory, but a practical necessity which the laboratory has had to provide in order to meet the requirements of industry." In fact, three separate methods are now available by which measurements of this accuracy can be made and gages of the necessary projections are obtainable from several sources. When the British firm of Johansson in 1908 introduced their now well-known block and slip-gauge system they produced one of the essential elements upon which modern manufacturing, dominated by the machine and its interchangeable products, is traced. The author is on the staff of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington. The first volume covers standards of length-measuring machines, and comparators; the second volume deals with limit-gauges, measuring instruments and general methods of measurement; while a third volume still to be published will discuss screw-gauge measurements.

Physics
Science News-Letter, May 10, 1930