

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY PROJECT—George Washington Stephens—*Louis Carrier & Co.*, 460 p., \$7.50. The first canals along the St. Lawrence route, built more than one hundred years ago, were planned to be only twelve feet wide and eighteen inches deep. Primitive bateaux and Durham boats navigated them. Now the Welland Canal built by Canada carries vessels of twenty-five-foot draft and would lift and lower ocean-going vessels through its 325 feet if they could come in from the sea. The problem of whether the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes should be made a 2,000-mile arm of the Atlantic piercing the heart of North America is ably presented, facts being drawn even from the days of the bateaux and Durham boats. The book is full of information on both sides; there are two contrasting tables which list reasons for and against the project.

Navigation

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

WHAT TREE IS THAT?—E. G. Cheney—*Appleton*, 189 p., \$2. A revised edition of one of the most useful of books for the layman or the beginning student in dendrology. Several scores of the most common trees are taken up in order, each receives a terse paragraph of description of its identification characters, and each is illustrated with a simple, clear-cut outline drawing.

Dendrology

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

WONDER FLIGHTS OF LONG AGO—Mary Elizabeth Barry and Paul R. Hanna—*Appleton*, 219 p., \$1. A reader for elementary schools containing accounts of such mythical flights as Pegasus and Bellerophon, Daedalus and Icarus, etc., intended to be related to the child's interest in actual flights of today.

Mythology

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

SOLID GEOMETRY—LEONARD D. Haertter—*Century*, 554 p., \$1.40. An excellent text with frequent summaries, reviews and an abundance of exercises. It is a continuation of the author's "Plane Geometry," a summary of which is given at the beginning. A number of illustrations show the practical applications of the subject.

Geometry

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

A DICTIONARY OF COLOR—A. Maerz and M. Rea Paul—*McGraw-Hill*, 207 p., \$12. A truly magnificent volume in which are given, in 56 colored plates, approximately 8,000 samples of colors, of which a thousand or more, having accepted names, are identified. The text discusses a number of these specifically, as well as other color problems. Anyone who has occasion to use color, and particularly anyone using color nomenclature, will find the work invaluable. The printers are to be congratulated in producing so successfully such a difficult job of color printing.

Color

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

A GENERAL SCIENCE WORKBOOK—Charles H. Lake, Louis E. Welton, James C. Adell—*Silver, Burdett*, 343 p., \$1.40. The utilization of this auxiliary to the textbook in the teaching of general science should make the work less painful to both pupil and teacher, and more profitable to the pupil. The modern technique of sentence completion, born of psychological tests, is used freely in combination with more conventional questions and problems, involving both the reading of texts and the performing of experiments.

General Science

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

MOTHER WIT—Estelle H. Ries—*Century*, 301 p., \$2.50. The growth of man's simple inventive ideas for improving his world and himself rather than the mechanical details of great inventions is the subject of this record of ingenuity. It takes us back to primitive and ancient times and carries forward through history, with many picturesque and entertaining incidents. The book thus provides long range perspective on our dining customs, our use of light and fire, our clothing, cleanliness, and other aspects of everyday life to which mother wit has brought comfort and satisfaction.

Invention

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

THE CANCROID CRABS OF AMERICA, OF THE FAMILIES EURYALIDAE, PORTUNIDAE, ATELECYCLIDAE, CANCRIDAE AND XANTHIDAE—Mary J. Rathbun—*Govt. Printing Office*, 609 p., 230 pl., \$2. Of interest to students of marine zoology.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

THE CITY OF TOMORROW—Le Corbusier, translated from the 8th French edition with an introduction by Frederick Etchells—*Payson & Clarke*, 301 p., \$7.50. A *moderne* architect plans the perfect City, with business housed in 24 (no more) skyscrapers set in a vast park. Subway stations in each skyscraper, 60-mile-an-hour safe highways, and ample parking space are some of the attractions. All habitations are banished to a suburban garden city.

Architecture

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

FLORA POLSKA, TOM IV: RUBUS L.—Witold Kuleszka—*Polish Academy of Sciences*. Dr. Kuleszka here monographs the species of *Rubus* that occur in Poland and adjacent regions. The book is in Polish; it is to be hoped that eventually the Polish Academy may be able to publish translations of these monographs into a Western European modern language or into Latin, to make them available to those of us for whom Slavic languages have proved too difficult.

Botany

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

THE PSYCHOLOGIST KEEPS HOUSE—Edwina Abbott Cowan and Laura Thornborough—*Midwest Co.*, 213 p., \$2. A leisurely discussion of the home in its relation to modern life. The theme is brought to a practical turn at intervals by suggestions as to how psychological principles may be applied to the care of children and the management of the home.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

V. O. K. S.—*Soviet Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries*, 118 p., \$3 per year. With the purpose of acquainting foreign readers (of English, French and German) with the "cultural life and cultural development of the U. S. S. R., its five year plan of socialist economic reconstruction of the country on the basis of industrialisation and collectivisation" the Soviet Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries has established this propaganda magazine. The January-February issue has articles on Soviet archaeological expeditions during 1929, excavations in the Crimea, and descriptions of other scientific work and societies in the Soviet Union.

General Science

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

First Glances at New Books—Continued

RADIO AND ITS FUTURE—Edited by Martin Codel—*Harper*, 349 p., \$4. To anyone who has wondered about how radio grew in a mere decade from a scientific infant to a billion dollar industry and public utility, the chapters of this book written by authorities in the various radio fields will come as a revelation. And even those within the field of radio will undoubtedly be able to obtain much information from the pages of this book. Broadcasting, point to point communication, radio as an industry, regulation of radio and the scientific fundamentals of radio are all given concise and interesting treatment in the various sections.

Radio

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

HEALTH OF HAITI—Kent C. Melhorn—*National Public Health Service of Haiti*, 175 p. The author, who is the director general of Haiti's public health service, has made his review of the health work for the fiscal year 1928-29 an interesting account of health conditions in that troubled island at the present time and also as they were before the national health service was reorganized in 1915 at the time of the United States intervention in the affairs of the country. Captain Melhorn is an officer in the Medical Corps, U. S. N.

Public Health

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

MASTERS' AND MATES' MANUAL OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE—G. C. Manning—*Van Nostrand*, 183 p., \$2.75. Not full of technical detail but containing clearly explained principles of ship architecture, this short manual will be interesting and valuable both to those who have to do with ships and to those who have a mind ever inquisitive for engineering knowledge. It was written especially for officers and men of the merchant marine.

Naval Architecture

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

NINTH YEAR MATHEMATICS—Ernst R. Breslich—*Macmillan*, 319 p., \$1.20. A text for use in the first year high school that combines advanced arithmetic, algebra (including quadratic equations), elementary trigonometry, the use of logarithms and the slide rule, etc. Such a general course would seem to give the student a good basis for further advanced work.

Mathematics

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

MINERAL RAW MATERIALS—U. S. Department of Commerce, 278 p., 45c. An economic presentation of the source of 80 per cent. of the world's production of minerals, including 28 different minerals. They come from only eight countries—the United States, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Belgium, Italy, and Spain. The authors are J. W. Furness, chief of the Minerals Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and L. M. Jones, of the Bureau of Mines, assisted by F. H. Blumenthal, of the Minerals Division.

Minerology—Economics

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

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MYTHS OF THE ORIGIN OF FIRE—Sir James George Frazer—*Macmillan*, 238 p., \$4.50. Every people that the earth has ever known has had its Prometheus. Fire myths are perhaps the most universally distributed of all folk beliefs. Their correspondences and differences can be used by ethnologists in tracing the history of peoples, and their concepts of the nature of the hero and his relation to the gods are of service to the student of comparative religions. One of the foremost of the world's scholars of mythology here assembles the most outstanding types of fire-origin myths, again placing the scientific public in his debt.

Mythology

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

AMERICAN STANDARDS YEAR BOOK 1930—*American Standards Association*, 301 p., 75c. The standardization efforts of 43 national technical societies, trade associations, and governmental bodies come to a focus in the American Standards Association. Its year book is a guide to standardization activity here and abroad. Up to the present time, the Association has approved 166 standards and projects for 171 other standards are under way.

Standardization

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

FORESTRY IN SWEDEN AND ADJACENT LANDS—George Sargent Perry—*Author*, 276 p., \$2.50. The author, who spent a year in Sweden as Forestry Fellow of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, here gives his fellow-Americans the benefit of what he learned there. He goes into such aspects of the question as forest policy, economics, administration, etc. While this country may not yet be ready for the intensive phase of forest development and use that now prevails in the Baltic countries, we shall probably be confronted with the necessity some day, and studies such as those of Prof. Perry will help to prepare us.

Forestry

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA: ITS NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT—L. O. Thomas—*Department of the Interior (Canada)*, 167 p. Coming from an official source, this booklet is much more dignified and solid than ordinary "booster" literature. It will be of interest to many people in "the States" as well as to those under the British flag.

Conservation—Development

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930

SONGS OF SCIENCE: AN ANTHOLOGY—Edited by Virginia Shortridge—*Marshall Jones*, 245 p., \$3.50. Miss Shortridge has combed many recent and some earlier sources for verse with some bearing or other on the sciences, and the result is a credit to her selective judgment and her critical faculty. Her poets range all the way from Francis Thompson to Berton Braley, and their moods all the way from brooding questions of the future to triumph in the mechanical achievements of the present.

Poetry

Science News-Letter, July 19, 1930