

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

DEATH VALLEY: THE FACTS—W. A. Chalfant—*Stanford Univ. Press*, 155 p., \$3.50. A few years ago the name "Death Valley" caused most of us to shudder. Only extremely hardy souls, very resistant to heat and desiccation, ever ventured into the place. With the coming of motor transportation, however, one can get into and out of such picturesque though forbidding places unscathed, even in comfort; and travel into Death Valley is becoming more common. Some day it will possibly be a national park. Against that fortunate time, and for the benefit of those who now frequent the valley, Mr. Chalfant has produced this book, giving the solid factual background around which all the earlier romantic writings have been embroidered.

General Science
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

THIRTY FATHOMS DEEP—Commander Edward Ellsberg—*Dodd, Mead*, 266 p., \$2. The diver whose skill raised the sunken submarines S-51 and S-4, exploits described in his previous book, "On the Bottom," turns his pen to fiction. A modern salvage ship sails in search of Spanish treasure lying thirty fathoms deep off the coast of Peru. After a battle with the ocean to recover the treasure, the treasure hunting crew fights modern pirates.

Fiction
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS—W. S. Bayley—*Holt*, 530 p., \$4. A valuable text which will help make engineers of the future give more consideration to economic factors. It tells where and to what extent non-metallic minerals are found and how they are mined. Its importance can be judged by the fact that surveys show the value of non-metallic substances produced in the United States to be more than three times that of metallic substances.

Geology
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

PLANE AND SPHERICAL TRIGONOMETRY—R. D. Carmichael and E. R. Smith—*Ginn & Co.*, 198 p., \$1.60. A text for students beginning plane and spherical trigonometry.

Mathematics
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

THE GLORIOUS OYSTER—Hector Bolitho—*Knopf*, 203 p., 6 s. A New Zealander here shows Englishmen how properly to appreciate oysters, and he brings to his aid legions of noble Roman trenchermen. It is a pity, though, that the author did not first come to this side of the water and eat his way around the coast, from the rockbound shores of Maine to the whispering shoals of the Gulf. Then he could have made an excellent book perfect, and still further glorified that which is already glorious.

Marine Zoology—Applied Gastronomy
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

HIGHWAYS HANDBOOK—(1929 Edition)—*Highway Education Board*, 95 p., 50c. Seldom are collections of bare facts and figures, however valuable they may be for reference, interesting to the casual examiner. The statistics and information on the highways of the world which this handbook contains are a striking exception.

Engineering
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

PILOTING YOUR LIFE—Joseph Jastrow—*Greenberg*, 372 p., \$3.50. The psychologist is often called upon to act as helmsman, to aid in steering individuals through the rough seas of life. Starting from this point of view, Dr. Jastrow writes of the psychic life of the individual from childhood into maturity, stressing the psychological problems and showing how the psychologist steers the individual away from the reefs and rocks. The book has grown out of the articles which Dr. Jastrow writes for newspapers, amplified and brought into a logical sequence; hence the volume is addressed very definitely to the average reader and deals with the problems which personally interest him.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

PRESSON BIOLOGY TESTS (I and II)—John M. Presson—*World Book Co.* (\$1.20 per package of 25). Two series of standardized tests, of the single-word-answer type, designed to determine the completeness and accuracy of the secondary pupil's biological information. Test I covers plant biology, Test II animal and human biology.

Biology—Education
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

FIELD BOOK OF PONDS AND STREAMS—Ann Haven Morgan—*Putnam's*, 448 p., \$3.50. This newest addition to the excellent series of pocket-size field books published by Putnam's gives us a comprehensive view of the life in and about fresh-water bodies, and so cuts across all classes of animals and plants. Algae and submerged vascular plants, emersed plants of all kind, worms, molluscs, crustacea, insects and vertebrates all receive terse but adequate and well-illustrated treatment. Folk who go camping or "cottaging" beside still waters should as a rule take few books with them, but this is one book they should take.

Biology
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

CONDENSED CHEMICAL DICTIONARY—Edited by Francis M. Turner—*Chemical Catalog Co.—Little and Ives Co.*, 551 p., \$10. Nearly everything chemical from A. H. Gum to Zymase is contained in this compact volume, now in its second edition, which can be kept conveniently on chemical reference shelves. Data on each chemical listed are given under the headings: Color and properties, constants, solubility, derivation, impurities, grades, containers, uses and railroad shipping regulations.

Chemistry
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

BEHAVIORISM, A BATTLE LINE—Edited by William P. King—*Cokesbury Press, Nashville*, 376 p., \$2.25. A symposium by 18 philosophers, psychologists, and theologians, discussing the mechanistic view of psychology and its implications. The introduction by Josiah Morse states that the volume is presented "with a view of furnishing an antidote to the behavioristic poison that has been spread so freely among the young." The contributors include: William McDougall, Bishop Francis McConnell, Rabbi Julius Mark, and Herbert C. Sanborn.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930

SECOND INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL RAW SILK CONFERENCE—(Proceedings)—*The Silk Association of America, Inc.*, 526 p., \$5. The technical papers and discussions of the Second International Technical Raw Silk Conference held in New York last fall are contained in this volume.

Textiles
Science News-Letter, July 26, 1930