

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

THE DANUBE IN PREHISTORY—V. Gordon Childe—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 479 p., \$15. When the Turkish tide flowed westward until it was checked at the gates of Vienna, history was only repeating prehistory. The valley of the Danube has always been a broad highway for peoples pressing out of the East and seeking empire in the West. We are becoming a little more expert than we once were in deciphering the unlettered records written in celt and potsherd, in broken spear and fibula. Prof. Childe has found such documents in the fields of Hungary, in the valleys of Switzerland, and in all the places where the many waters of the great river start. He has read them with the skill of a scholar and here sets down his findings with the confident style of a man of letters.

Archaeology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

THE NEW DAY ARITHMETICS—Fletcher Durell, Harry O. Gillet and Thomas J. Durell—*Chas. E. Merrill Co.* Elementary Book, 450 p., 80c. Intermediate Book, 452 p., 84c. Here are two arithmetic texts that go a long way towards making the subjects easy for the teacher and attractive to the students. The problems are eminently practical and are graded into three levels, for meeting the needs of ways difficult for the first few weeks. Why he should study geometry is well explained.

Mathematics

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

HEBREWISMS OF WEST AFRICA—Joseph J. Williams—*Lincoln MacVeagh*, 443 p., \$7.50. The theory that "somewhere in the dim past a wave or waves of Hebraic influence swept over Negro Africa" leaving traces that endure even to the present is advanced by the author and backed by many points in Jewish history and religion and in the culture of the African Ashanti. To account for "Hebraisms, real or apparent" being found among the Africans, Dr. Williams suggests that groups of Jews of pre-exilic times probably were carried by their commercial interests deeper and deeper into the interior of Africa. The theory, he admits, must at present remain a theory.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

HEAT POWER—E. B. Norris and Eric Therkelsen—*McGraw-Hill*, 376 p., \$3.50. By feeding the theory of the internal combustion engine to the American boy's natural interest in the operation of his automobile, thermodynamics is introduced. This is a text written with appreciation for the changes in power production that have taken place and are still going on in the United States.

Physics

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

MENTAL HYGIENE—Ernest R. Groves and Phyllis Blanchard—*Holt*, 467 p., \$4. This comprehensive text book for college use is at the same time a readable introduction to a subject of growing importance. Books on mental hygiene are escaping from an early tendency to deal in essay style with the "larger aspects" of the matter. This volume abounds in facts and stresses its points with a few impressive figures. It treats of the mental hygiene problems of childhood, college life, marriage, business, religion, and other phases of life. There is an unexpected chapter on the mental hygiene aspects of literature which is one of the most interesting in the book.

Mental Hygiene

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

MANUAL OF BIOLOGY—George A. Baitzell—*Macmillan*, 369 p., \$2.60. The success of this text book for general college courses is sufficiently attested by the fact that it now enters its tenth printing and its fourth edition.

Biology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS, OXFORD, 1928—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 117 p., 7 s., 6 d. The record of formal proceedings of the Seventeenth Congress, including brief abstracts of a number of the papers.

General Science

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

ASTEROIDEA OF THE NORTH PACIFIC AND ADJACENT WATERS: PART 3. FORCIPULATA (CONCLUDED)—W. K. Fisher—356 p., 93 pl. \$1.40. A monograph of interest to students of the echinoderms.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

ROCK GARDEN AND ALPINE PLANTS—Henry Correvon—*Macmillan*, 544 p., \$6. Probably no botanist or horticulturist would dispute the statement that M. Correvon knows more about Alpine gardens and the plants that make them up than anybody else in the world. This scholarly and genial Swiss has written extensively on his specialty and other botanical subjects, but mainly in French, so that it is with joyous anticipations of an extension of his Continental triumphs that his friends now see this pretentious work produced in English, under the editorship of Leonard Barron. After a general discussion of the principles underlying the development of rock gardens and some practical directions for their construction, the author launches into a discussion of all available plants, listing them alphabetically and giving with each a brief summary of its qualities and limitations. A special feature of the book is the large numbers of unusually fine colored illustrations, which the artist has signed only with a self-effacing initial "R." These are both good botany and excellent design.

Horticulture

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

PORTO RICO AND ITS PROBLEMS—Victor S. Clark and associates—*Brookings Institution*, 707 p., \$5. Uncle Sam's West Indian island possession is given close and expert scrutiny in this important study by the Brookings Institution. Various specialists have cooperated with Dr. Clark in the preparation of the volume. In addition to a consideration of various phases of Porto Rican life and government, the investigation presents concrete recommendations calling for action by Congress with the purpose of remedying some of the Island's present difficulties.

Economics—Geography

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

GEOLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE KAU DISTRICT, HAWAII—Harold T. Stearns, William O. Clark, and Oscar E. Meinzer—*Govt. Printing Office*, 194 p., 31 pl., 3 maps, 85c. This complete study of a limited area in Hawaii will be of use to teaching geologists as well as to those directly interested in local problems.

Geology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

First Glances at New Books—Continued

BRINGING UP YOUR CHILD—Edwina Abbott Cowan and Avis D. Carlson—*Duffield*, 278 p., \$2.50. Written in language that any parent can easily understand and dealing with the ordinary situations of child life, this book will probably appeal to a good many young mothers and fathers who would like to put into practice some of the new-found psychological knowledge, but do not quite know how to start.

Psychology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

THE ADJUSTMENT OF ERRORS IN PRACTICAL SCIENCE—R. W. M. Gibbs—*Oxford*, 112 p., \$1.75. "No measurement of any real thing can ever be correct," says the author in his introduction, "for the simple reason that no instrument is capable of infinitely small displacements and no human eye can detect infinitesimal separations. Errors are therefore inevitable." In this useful little book he discusses errors and their adjustment under such headings as "Probability, Chance and Odds," "The Correlation Coefficient," "Weighted Observations," "Error of the Last Figure," etc. Anyone who uses figures in scientific work will find it of value and help them properly to interpret their data.

Mathematics

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

THE CHARM OF TREES—T. F. Davies—*Revell*, 125 p., \$1.50. A book of discursive essays, using trees and their lore as points of departure, rather than treatises about the trees themselves.

Essays

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGY—Lorande Loss Woodruff—*Macmillan*, 501 p., \$3.50. This successful and very widely used text in general biology now enters its fourth edition.

Biology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

A SURVEY OF THE LAW CONCERNING DEAD HUMAN BODIES—George H. Weinmann—*National Research Council*, 199 p., \$2. Particularly interesting to superintendents of hospitals, directors of medical schools, and coroners and assistants is this clearly written report issued under the auspices of the committee on medicolegal problems of the National Research Council.

Medicine—Law

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

OUR FOREFATHERS, THE GOTHIC NATIONS—Gudmund Schütte—Translated by Jean Young—*Cambridge Univ. Press*, 288 p., \$6.50. This ethnography of the forefathers of England and Scandinavia appeared in Danish in 1926. This translation is of special interest to American and English science because it fills a gap in the library of the ethnologist. The remarkable feature of the book, however, is its pioneer effort at a strict regularity of plan. Even in encyclopedias, where standardization is the rule, Dr. Schütte points out that standardization fails when the contributors come to write on ethnography. Topics discussed by different contributors are handled so differently that any attempt at comparative study reveals a chaotic condition. The Danish author has also attempted a systematic reform in nomenclature.

Ethnology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

SCIENCE IN THE KITCHEN: THE SELECTION, CARE, AND SERVICE OF FOODS—By eight authors—*Univ. of Pittsburgh*, 82 p., 60 cents. Eight more of the popular radio talks on current science, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. Topics include the well-planned kitchen, food for young children, good proportions of foods, good meals for the young homemaker.

Home Economics

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

LIGHT—C. G. Vernon—*Cambridge University Press*, 191 p., \$1.40. This introductory textbook of one field in physics was prepared by the head of the science department of an English school to allow the teaching of the fundamentals of light without exclusive recourse to mathematics.

Physics

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

AIR CONQUEST—W. Jefferson Davis—*Parker, Stone and Baird*, 233 p., \$3. An interesting account of various phases of flying in its transportation, trade and military uses.

Aviation

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

FIELD TESTS FOR THE COMMON METALS—George R. Fansett—*University of Arizona*, 51 p., Free. For those who expect to hunt for valuable minerals the simple and elementary directions given in this pamphlet will be useful.

Mineralogy

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

MICROBIOLOGY—Benjamin Franklin Lutman—*McGraw-Hill*, 495 p., \$4. This book offers an approach to the science of microscopic life somewhat different from that of most books in its general field. These usually have a single outlook—medicine, plant pathology, dairy science or what not—whereas Prof. Lutman's effort is to present bacteria, yeasts and the lower fungi as organisms facing similar life problems and solving them by more or less similar means. The special aspects of each type find adequate treatment after the fundamental biological phenomena have been adequately treated.

Microbiology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN—Alfred Adler, Translated by Eleanore and Friedrich Jensen—*Greenberg*, 309 p., \$3.50. Dr. Adler's eager interest in children and his sympathy for their problems gives such a warmth to his writing that this book becomes more than "just another," stressing the importance of mental development. The abnormal child is given some attention in the volume, but the psychologist is equally interested in the small but significant troubles of the average youngster.

Psychology—Education

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

SOUTH AMERICA—Clarence F. Jones—*Henry Holt*, 798 p., \$6. Every country of South America is described politically and economically from a historical standpoint, as well as industrially and commercially. The author is professor of economic geography at Clark University, and the book is based upon travel and research in South America.

Geography

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930

STUDIEN ZUR EPIDEMIOLOGIE, OEKOLOGIE UND PHYSIOLOGIE DER AFRIKANISCHEN WANDERHEUSCHRECKE—F. S. Bodenheimer—*Paul Parey, Berlin*, 123 p. The problem of locusts has been a life-and-death matter in the East ever since the days of the Exodus, yet comparatively little scientific work has been done on it. In this publication, Dr. Bodenheimer and his colleagues at the Hebrew University at Jerusalem make substantial contributions toward its solution.

Entomology

Science News-Letter, August 9, 1930