

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

UNCLE SAM'S CAMELS—L. B. Lesley—*Harvard Univ. Press.*, 298 p., \$4. During the 1850's Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War, successfully promoted a project for importing a number of camels into the newly acquired Southwest for the use of Government forces in the desert regions. The experiment ended in failure, due at least in part to the coming of the Civil War, but there have been many legends and much scattered literature about Uncle Sam's Camels. Prof. Lesley here offers all the authentic information still extant about this undertaking, including transcripts of official documents and the journal of the men who had the drove in charge from Galveston to their final dispersal in California. As may be suspected by anyone who has even a little knowledge of the ways of camels, there is humor as well as history in this book.

History

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

THE LIFE OF HERMANN M. BIGGS—C.-E. A. Winslow—*Lea and Febiger*, 432 p., \$5. The story of Dr. Biggs' life is the story of the sound beginnings of the public health movement in this country. His achievements in this field are of a monumental character, wrote Dr. William H. Welch in the foreword to Dr. Winslow's book. Biggs' name is particularly associated with the New York City and State health departments and with the control of tuberculosis, to which he devoted much of his time, thought, energy and study. This biography should be interesting reading to every lay reader and of course deserves a place in the library of every public health worker.

Biography—Public Health

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

A STUDY OF SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF VEGETABLE OILS—James B. McNair—*Field Museum*, 21 p. A brief summary and grouping of the classes of vegetable oils according to their various properties, followed by tables giving saponification values, specific gravities and iodine numbers of a large number of oils, fats and waxes, and a table of oil-producing plants arranged in botanical order by families.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

ADOLESCENCE—Frankwood E. Williams—*Farrar and Rinehart*, 279 p., \$2.50. A series of studies in mental hygiene by a leading psychiatrist. The book should prove helpful to all who are dealing with that trying period known as adolescence, which often continues far longer than is suspected. In fact, Dr. Williams suggests that there are no adults. A list of less obvious signs of emotional immaturity is given in the first chapter. It ends with the "one (if the task be self-imposed) whose desk *must* be clean by night."

Mental Hygiene

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE—Percy S. Brown and others—*American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 224 p. The authors of the papers in this volume have tried not only to describe the subject but also to anticipate what the results of the second industrial revolution may be and to point out how the less fortunate of these results may be avoided or mitigated. Reviews of pertinent books conclude the volume.

Economics

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

DICTIONARY OF BIOLOGICAL EQUIVALENTS—Ernst Artschwager—*Williams and Wilkins*, 225 p., 6 plates, \$4.50. The author, who has already produced a successful *Dictionary of Botanical Equivalents*, here gives us a reference work of wider scope. Between *Aal* and *Zypressen-Wolfsmilch* he packs in a good many thousands of English equivalents of the German words that so frequently stump us, and to which we can find no clue in the "literary" type of German-English dictionary. He misses a few terms; but that is not remarkable, considering how the vocabularies of all sciences grow in all languages; and in future editions (the book will merit many) such lacks will without doubt be supplied. Useful supplements are a list of frequently used German abbreviations, a conversion table for metric weights and measures, and a series of six keyed plates showing the principal anatomical details of flowers, fruits, birds and insects.

General Science

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

PARACHUTE—Charles J. V. Murphy—*Putnam*, 275 p., \$2.50. An epic of the life saver of the air that begins with the famous experiments at McCook Field in May, 1919, that gave birth to the modern parachute, and ends with a prediction of what parachutes of tomorrow will do.

Aviation

Science News-Letter August 16, 1930

THE SKELETAL REMAINS OF EARLY MAN—Ales Hrdlicka—*Govt. Printing Office*, 379 p., 93 pl., \$2.25. Since 1914, when Dr. Hrdlicka first summed up in a single publication all the known data regarding skeletal remains of ancient man, a vast fund of new information has come to light. The number of new finds in old fields has greatly increased the material available for comparative study, and the discovery of strange types, such as Rhodesian man, as well as of familiar types in remote places, such as the neanderthaloids of Peking and Capernaum, has greatly widened the paleanthropologist's horizon. For this reason the present exhaustive and excellently illustrated monograph will be most heartily welcomed in all parts of the world. In preparing his material, Dr. Hrdlicka was not content merely to collate existing sources, voluminous though they were. He travelled thousands of miles to practically all the classic shrines of early man, examining and measuring the relics with his own eyes and hands. This is an invaluable contribution, since it reduces the incalculable "human factor" at least to the terms of a single personality.

Anthropology—Evolution

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

THE DIFFERENTIAL ANALYSIS OF STARCHES—James B. McNair—*Field Museum*, 44 p. Information in tabular and summary form regarding chemical and physical reactions of a large number of starches.

Chemistry

Science News-Letter, August 16, 1930

FAUNA OF THE KIMMSWICK LIMESTONE OF MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS—John H. Bradley, Jr.—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 69 p., 30 pl. The record of a paleozoic fauna, of interest to historical geologists and paleontologists.

Paleontology

Science News-Letter August 16, 1930