

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

RATIONAL INDUCTION: AN ANALYSIS OF THE METHOD OF SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY—Homer H. Dubs—*Univ. of Chicago Press*, 510 p., \$4.50. This book treats from a new angle the fundamental problem for all science and philosophy. Whereas the usual discussion assumes that we know what knowledge is and proceeds to ask: What is the nature of knowledge? this treatise tries first to answer the logically prior problem: How can certainty be assured? This problem is solved in demonstrating the correctness of a new theory of induction, derived from the method of hypothesis. Thereupon the problem of knowledge becomes relatively easy of solution. A new epistemological theory is propounded, which finds reality to lie in the objects of modern science, and provides a logical and thoroughly criticizable method of connecting those objects with experience and with scientific law.

Philosophy

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

COLORADO RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED PROBLEMS—Edited by C. A. Dykstra—*American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 42 p., \$1. A university professor looks at Boulder Dam. In the foreword of this pamphlet, which makes up part two of Vol. CXLVIII of the annals of the Academy, he sees in this development a tremendous excursion into the realms of regional planning. Among the authors are an electrical engineer who tells how community development in the Southwest will be influenced by the Boulder Dam project, a hydraulic engineer who describes metropolitan distribution of water in the Los Angeles area and a former chief engineer of the U. S. Reclamation Bureau who presents the major engineering problems of this Colorado development.

Hydraulics

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

HOW THE WORLD BEGAN—Edith Heal—*Rockwell*, 112 p., \$1.25. The story is vividly told and amusingly illustrated. The book is one of the Junior Science Series, intended for children. However, the parent who reads it aloud will not be bored. A University of Chicago professor vouches for the scientific accuracy.

Prehistory

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

ADVENTURES IN DISH GARDENING—Patten Beard—*DeLaMare*, 204 p., \$2.50. The joy of a dish garden, which is the name for the tiny Japanese and Chinese landscapes growing in bowls, is increased when you make your own instead of buying it at the florist shop. This small book gives many practical directions for making and caring for dish gardens of both Oriental and Western spirit. The author suggests possible uses of the dish garden in schools and libraries as well as in the home. The book is well illustrated and altogether, dish gardening should become a popular indoor sport.

Horticulture

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

THE MEASUREMENT OF MAN—J. Arthur Harris, Clarence M. Jackson, Donald G. Paterson, Richard E. Scammon—*Univ. of Minnesota Press*, 215 p., \$2.50. Four Sigma Xi lectures on: The measurement of man in the mass; normal and abnormal human types; personality and physique; and the measurement of the body in childhood. Brought together in print, with many graphs, tables, and photographs, they make a serviceable text and an up-to-date reference book on this important branch of anthropology.

Biometrics

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

UNTECHNICAL EXPLANATIONS: ELECTRICITY, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE—John F. Skirrow—*Int. Tel. & Tel. Corp.*, 69 p., 25c. A useful little elementary account of electricity and electrical circuits, particularly as they are used in wire communication. The author is consulting engineer and vice-president of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Co., so naturally the work of his company is rather emphasized, though with no sacrifice of accuracy.

Physics

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

BIRDS COLLECTED BY THE CHILDS FRICK EXPEDITION TO ETHIOPIA AND KENYA COLONY. PART I: NON-PASSERES—Herbert Friedmann—*Govt. Printing Office*, 516 p., \$1. A thoroughgoing monograph of one section of the bird life in a hitherto little-worked part of Africa.

Ornithology

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

MODERN PHYSICS—Theodor Wulf, S. J., Translated by C. J. Smith—*Dutton*, 469 p., \$10. In this book Father Wulf, who is professor of physics at Ignatius Kolleg, Valkenburg, Holland, has produced an excellent summary of modern physics in its many phases. It is divided into four main parts, viz.: "the material world," "the atomic structure of matter," "the structure of the atom" and "the physics of the ether." In the last part he discusses the development of the quantum mechanics by Heisenberg and of the wave mechanics by Schrödinger from the original work of de Broglie. Regarding these theories, he says, "at the present time neither . . . has been so far developed that it can be said that the goal has been reached. At the moment everything is, so to say, in a state of flux. Many new ideas are still embodied in the theory, but also the meanings of the new views are frequently being modified. Under these circumstances any attempt to estimate the value of the new theories must be considered premature."

Physics

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEX IN VERTEBRATES—F. W. Rogers Brambell—*MacMillan*, 261 p., \$4. The book aims to correlate the knowledge of reproduction gained through recent anatomical, physiological and eugenic studies. Besides reviewing past work, the results of much new research, chiefly the author's, are given. A preface by Julian S. Huxley concludes that the book should be of service both to research workers and to students interested in the general biology of sex. However, the lay reader would not be interested. There are numerous illustrations and a bibliography.

Zoology

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

CROSS-SECTIONS OF RURAL HEALTH PROGRESS—Harry S. Mustard, *Commonwealth Fund*, 230 p., \$1.00. Ruthersford county, Tennessee, was the scene of one of the Commonwealth Fund child health demonstrations for four years ending in 1928. The history of this demonstration is told in this bound report by its director.

Public Health

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