

◆ First Glances at New Books ◆

Physics

THE ATOM—G. P. Thomson—*Holt*, 252 p., \$1.25. With the great changes that have come in recent years regarding our knowledge of the atom and how it is made, there has been an urgent need for a small and popular work summarizing these views. Professor Thomson, who recently spent a year at Cornell as exchange professor, is himself one of the pioneers who contributed this new knowledge and is also the son of a still earlier pioneer in the same field, Sir J. J. Thomson. Therefore he speaks with authority and in addition has the ability of expressing himself clearly in popular language, so that this little book admirably fills the gap. It is one of the publisher's always excellent "Home University Library."

Science News Letter, October 4, 1930

History-Ethnology

THE MAKERS OF CIVILIZATION IN RACE AND HISTORY—L. A. Waddell—*Luzac, London*, 646 p., 28s. To show the scope of this work, we cannot do better than quote Dr. Waddell's own explanatory subtitle: "Showing the rise of the Aryans of Sumerians, their origination and propagation of civilization, their extension of it to Egypt and Crete, personalities and achievements of their kings, historical originals of mythic gods and heroes, with dates from the rise of civilization about 3380 B. C., reconstructed from Babylonian, Egyptian, Hittite, Indian and Gothic sources." Like Elliot Smith, the author stresses the importance of diffusion of ideas in the development of Old World culture. Unlike Professor Smith, he regards the Nordics of Mesopotamia as the pioneers of that culture. The volume is attractively illustrated, and brings together a great deal of the latest source material.

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Psychology

PSYCHOLOGIES OF 1930—24 authors, edited by Carl Murchison—*Clark University Press*, 497 p., \$6. Again, as in the Psychologies of 1925, Dr. Murchison has gathered together an interesting list of leading psychologists and has set these 23 men—and one woman—to expounding the current problems and trends in their science. Many and varied schools are represented, including the configurational psychologies of Germany; the Russian psychologies, expounded by Pavlov, Schriermann and Kornilov; analytical psychologies dis-

cussed by Janet, Adler and Flugel; the factor school and its famous "g" explained by Spearman; as well as chapters on dynamic psychology by Woodworth, behaviorism by Hunter and Weiss, reaction psychology by Dunlap and other doctrines discussed by other writers. The new volume covers a broader ground than its predecessor and reassures us that the "Psychologies" appearing from time to time are likely to become an institution.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1930

Prophecy

THE WORLD IN 2030 A. D.—The Right Honourable The Earl of Birkenhead—*Brewer and Warren*, 215 p., \$3. The delightful times in store for our descendants, who will work one day per week and spend the rest of their time "liberating atomic energy," fox-hunting (though social parasitism among women will be unknown), and making war with super-tanks which will also swim, dive and fly. P. S.—India will still be loyal to the Empire.

Science News Letter, October 4, 1930

Education—General Science

SCIENCE IN EDUCATION, ITS AIMS AND METHODS—Henry H. Cawthorne—*Oxford University Press*, 110 p., \$2. This little book is dedicated, rather apprehensively it seems, "To the Child, who is fast becoming the last concern in secondary education." The teacher of natural science who opens the book at this page has caught the point of view of the author, for he is primarily concerned with the problem of presenting science to boys and girls in such a way as to attain the high goal—"the best results." The author stresses the point that he presents a choice of methods, and that one of the dangers in science education is that teachers go on teaching as they were taught themselves.

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Horticulture

MODERN ROSES—J. Horace McFarland—*Macmillan*, 284 p., \$5. Over 2,500 varieties of roses are described in this "Who's Who." It has taken fifteen years to gather material for this comprehensive catalogue compiled under the auspices of the American Rose Society. The result is a handbook invaluable to anyone who grows roses for pleasure or profit. In addition to the rose list, an appendix gives the originators of roses referred to in the list.

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Astronomy

ASTRONOMY—John Charles Duncan—*Harper*, 435 p., \$3.75. Here is the latest of the numerous astronomical texts that have appeared in the last few years. It is also one of the best and that it has achieved a well-deserved popularity is shown by the fact that this is the second edition, the first having been issued in 1926. Dr. Duncan, who is professor of astronomy at Wellesley, but who spends the summers at Mt. Wilson making photographs with the 100-inch telescope, is one of the most eminent of present-day astronomers, so that he writes with an authority emphasized by the numerous illustrations consisting of his own photographs of celestial bodies. In addition, as an experienced teacher, he writes in a clear and interesting manner, that makes even more vital this always interesting subject. The second edition has given the opportunity for some extensive revision, one of the most striking items being a full description of the discovery of Pluto, this being the first text to mention the trans-Neptunian planet by name. A new set of some excellent and convenient star maps has been introduced, and other advances in astronomical knowledge in the last four years have been incorporated. In response to a demand from teachers, exercises have been introduced at the end of each chapter, but they are designed to stimulate rather than merely to review the work. In short, though written as a text, it can be recommended as the best single book available today for the general reader who wishes to learn more about the heavens above him.

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Psychology

THE CHILD FROM ONE TO SIX—Ada Hart Arlitt—*McGraw-Hill*, 188 p., \$2. A rubber book shelf will soon be needed to hold the books on the care of young children. Here is the newest and one of the best for school and home guidance. It is written so simply and readably that the busiest of parents will find it possible to pick it up and read a page, or even a paragraph, anywhere in the book—with profit. Besides the usual subjects of training children into good habits of eating, sleeping, obeying, and controlling their emotions, there are valuable chapters on "Your child's imagination" and "How your child thinks."

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