

• First Glances at New Books

Astronomy

COMETS—Charles P. Olivier—*Williams and Wilkins*, 246 p., \$3.50. Among the various subjects that have been neglected in recent scientific works is the interesting one of comets. Not since the revision of Chambers' famous book, "The Story of the Comets," in 1910, has a modern book on the subject appeared in English. Professor Olivier, who in 1925 produced the first book on meteors since 1871, now remedies the lack of works on comets with this thoroughly interesting book that will be welcomed alike by astronomer and layman. In many respects it is a sequel to his earlier book on meteors, since the two classes of celestial bodies are so closely related. Separate chapters are devoted to specific comets of special interest, such as Halley's, Biela's, Moorehouse's, Pons-Winnecke's and 1910a. Detailed accounts are given of the meteor crater in Arizona and the similar formations resulting from the 1908 meteoric collision in Siberia, both of which, Dr. Olivier contends, were really results of collisions of the head of a small comet with the earth. In his final chapter, on conclusions, he gives a new theory of the source of comets. Professor Olivier's leading position in the field of meteoric astronomy gives the book authority, and his ability to write simply and interestingly gives it a popular appeal, so that it deserves to attain a large distribution.

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Biography

THE STORY OF A SURGEON—Sir John Bland-Sutton—*Houghton Mifflin*, 204 p., \$3.50. The book was suggested by Rudyard Kipling, who has written a preamble for it. It consists of mbling reminiscences of a distinguished English surgeon. His experiences were numerous and varied, as were his interests. Since the book is not all medical, it may be read with pleasure by the layman as well as the physician.

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Psychology

HUMAN NATURE—Max Schoen—*Harper*, 504 p., \$2.50. A very up-to-date "first book" in psychology, both as to subject matter and educational form. Where older text books used to give dry-bone facts of science, leaving it to the skill of a teacher to bring the bones to

varying degrees of life, the new texts add comment and conversational discussions, and take special pains to acquaint the student with recent research. In short, the writer boldly gives the course, instead of a foundation for a course. Prof. Schoen handles this method of text-book writing very successfully, and steers amicably amid the structural and behavioristic theories, finding good in both points of view.

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General Science

OUR ENVIRONMENT: ITS RELATION TO US—Harry A. Carpenter and George C. Wood—*Allyn and Bacon*, 234 p., \$1.20.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: HOW WE ADAPT OURSELVES TO IT—Harry A. Carpenter and George C. Wood—*Allyn and Bacon*, 391 p., \$1.60.

OUR ENVIRONMENT: HOW WE USE AND CONTROL IT—Harry A. Carpenter and George C. Wood—*Allyn and Bacon*, 704 p., \$1.80.

These three volumes, Books I, II, and III of the Modern Science Series for Junior High Schools, edited by James M. Glass, give the reader in clear and readable form an introduction to science as it is applied in everyday life. The first volume deals mainly with physical geography; the second with astronomy, meteorology, horticulture, and sanitation; the third with physics, physiology, and hygiene. All subjects are dealt with from the point of view of the individual and the interrelation between him and his environment. The books are beautifully and profusely illustrated.

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Ichthyology

THE CANDIRU—Eugene W. Gudger—*Hoerber*, 120 p., \$1.50. An able discussion of tales and superstitions concerning a strange fish, the candirú, which is found in certain South American rivers. Of interest chiefly to biologists and scientific travellers.

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Medical History

STALKERS OF PESTILENCE—Wade W. Oliver—*Hoerber*, 251 p., \$3. With a preface by Dr. Theobald Smith. The book is a short, comprehensive, carefully written history of medicine.

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Hygiene

HEALTH HABITS BY PRACTICE—W. E. Burkard, R. L. Chambers, F. W. Maroney—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 413 p., 96c. HEALTH HABITS, PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE—W. E. Burkard, R. L. Chambers, F. W. Maroney—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 424 p., \$1. The first and second books of the Health-Happiness-Success Series. The first volume is intended for young children and aims to teach correct health habits without going deeply into physiology. Social approval is emphasized almost as much as the physiological reasons for practicing the habits given. Definiteness of direction about the habits is likewise a feature of the book. The second book is intended for children in upper grades. Besides instruction in physiology and personal hygiene, considerable attention is given to disease prevention and community hygiene, safe water and food supplies. Some space is also given to nutrition, first aid, and care of the sick room.

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Ethnology

GEOPHAGY—Berthold Laufer—*Field Museum*, 198 p., 50c. Earth-eating, or geophagy, throughout the world at various ages is described in this monograph. Except for one forgotten or neglected German work, this is the only complete treatise on the subject, it appears. Likewise in this work the first correct exposition of the important Chinese records on the subject is given.

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Mathematics

SECOND COURSE IN ALGEBRA—W. H. Williams and M. D. Taylor—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 252 p., \$1.20. High schools offering a third semester in algebra will find this a valuable text, and it will be useful for beginners in colleges.

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Dietetics

DIETETICS AND NUTRITION—Maude A. Perry—*Mosby*, 332 p., \$2.50. A text book, written in non-technical style, which is especially suitable for training schools for nurses and dietitians, but which might also be useful for patients or their housekeepers when a special diet is to be carried out in the home.

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