

• First Glances at New Books

Aeronautics

AN HOUR OF AVIATION—Capt. Norman Macmillan—*Lippincott*, 158 p., \$1. All phases of aviation are covered in this little book by a British authority. In his consideration of the military uses of aviation he says: "The dawn of the next big, white man's war will be a blood-red dawn. Death will be painted everywhere. Blood will flow, houses totter, flames leap upward from burst gas mains, from underground petrol tanks, torn sewers will foul the air with poison dealing odours. The nations with the biggest cities will be the nations most easily to be conquered. The populations of the towns will overrun the country. There will be famine, starvation, disease. It will not be war. It will be assassination, butchery, bloody and unchecked. It will come so fast that retreat will be impossible."

Science News Letter, December 6, 1930

Chemistry

GENERAL CHEMISTRY FOR COLLEGES—B. Smith Hopkins—*Heath*, 767 p., \$3.72. Dr. Hopkins combines prominence as a research chemist (among other things, he was the co-discoverer of illinium) with a wide reputation as a teacher. In this book both sides of his nature are reflected, for it is an excellent text for teaching purposes and of a most authoritative character. The substance of the book was used at Illinois for several years in mimeographed form, which has removed in advance of publication some of the rough spots that might otherwise mar a good text.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1930

Medical History

EDWARD JENNER AND THE DISCOVERY OF SMALLPOX VACCINATION—Louis H. Roddis—*Banta*, 155 p., \$1. An account of Jenner's life and of the efforts to find a means of protection against smallpox. The book has a bibliography, a chronology of Jenner's life, a list of his published works and an appendix of interesting material on smallpox vaccination in various countries.

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Archaeology

THE ANALYSIS OF THE MAYA HIEROGLYPHS—Hermann Beyer—*E. J. Brill, Leyden*, 20 p. The usual method of attempting to read Maya hieroglyphs by trying to find resemblances between the symbols and objects in the Mayan world

is pronounced faulty by the author of this study. Analysis of the glyphs provides no magic key to the Mayan system, he warns, but it does make clear the original meaning of many signs. For this preliminary publication, he has selected nine fundamental glyphs which are heads of families, and he shows how each of these glyphs was used as a starting point for many variations, compounds, and deviations.

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History

THE GREAT CRUSADE AND AFTER—Preston William Slosson—*Macmillan*, 496 p., \$5. The recent history of our country, from 1914, has been perhaps the most momentous since the Civil War, and we cannot help but wonder what future historians will think of it. Of course, probably no one who has lived through it can form an entirely impartial judgment, but in this book Professor Slosson, of the history faculty of the University of Michigan, seems to have come pretty close to doing so. As indicated by the chapter headings, he covers such phases as America in war time, the experiment of prohibition, the winning of equality by the American woman, the saga of the motor car and journalism and advertisement. Of particular interest to readers of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER will be the chapter "Science, Mistress and Handmaid," showing the influence of scientific development in shaping the period. This chapter was written by the author's father, the late Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, first director of Science Service, and represents one of the last things he wrote before his death last fall.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1930

Ichthyology

THE FISHES OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY—D. H. Thompson and F. D. Hunt—*Illinois Natural History Survey*, 101 p. A study of the distribution and abundance of fishes in small streams in a typical prairie area.

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Economics

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES 1914-1929—*National Industrial Conference Board, Inc.*, 190 p., \$3. Fundamental statistical matter of economic importance to all of us is analyzed in this study of the National Industrial Conference Board.

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Physics

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT—M. Luckiesh—*Van Nostrand*, 254 p., \$3.75. From the time the cave man first used a burning faggot to ameliorate the darkness of night, to the last few years, this has been practically the sole purpose of illumination. But in recent years, with the discovery of the importance of the invisible rays of sunlight, and the knowledge of their frequent natural deficiency, there has been inaugurated a new era of lighting, one in which the health-giving properties of sunlight are reproduced as well as the purely luminous ones. Dr. Luckiesh, director of the General Electric Company's Lighting Research Laboratory, has here produced a book covering this new aspect of illumination. Rather naturally, he gives considerable attention to the tungsten-mercury sunlamp, developed by his company, but the general phases of the subject are also well covered.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1930

Astronomy

LA PLANÈTE MARS: 1659-1929—E. M. Antoniadi—*Hermann*, 239 p., 80 frs. Perhaps the leading of the European planetary observers is M. Antoniadi, astronomer at the observatory of Meudon, near Paris, and now a branch of the Observatoire de Paris. For many years he has observed Mars, and the other planets, with the great 32-inch refractor, the largest in Europe. In this work he presents not only his own researches, illustrated with many of his beautiful drawings, but also the history of the planet from the first telescopic observations by Huyghens in 1659 down to the present. A new map of Mars, based on his own observations, is given in four full page plates. He does not mention the alleged inhabitants of Mars, and his opinion of the canals is summed up in the title of one of the chapters, "L'illusion de Canaux." "Personne n'a jamais vu un véritable canal sur Mars," he declares, and suggests that the apparent markings are made up of smaller details, indistinctly seen.

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Geometry

SOLID GEOMETRY—J. O. Hassler—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 131 p., \$1. A condensed text of solid geometry for high school use.

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