General Science

• First Glances at New Books

Entomology

CLASSIFICATION OF INSECTS—Charles T. Brues and A. L. Melander—*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College.* 672 p., pa. $5.50, cl. $6.50. This carefully worked out key to the insects and other terrestrial arthropods is one of the books that automatically becomes, by the simple fact of its appearance, indispensable to the teaching, museum or economic entomologist; and it should be on the reference shelf of anyone working in any of the life sciences, for insects touch all forms of life in some way. The teacher will welcome it especially, for it not only gives a good, clear workable analytical key, but also provides over a thousand line illustrations of insects and details of critical anatomical structures.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Acoustics

PLANNING FOR GOOD ACOUSTICS—Hope Bagenal and Alex. Wood—*Dutton,* 413 p., $6.75. The deepening penetration of science and its applications into the lives of people now brings forward a book that tells what we have learned about making buildings of all kinds, from the small homes to huge auditoriums, pleasing places in which to speak and be spoken to. A mass of material is presented that even those who are only slightly concerned with the subject will find keenly interesting.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Agriculture

ELECTRICITY ON THE FARM—*Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture,* 332 p., $1. More than one hundred uses of electricity on the farm are described in detail from the best available information obtained largely through federal and state engineering, agricultural and extension bulletins. The usefulness of the book is increased by its 570 illustrations, 87 charts and 160 tables. It is an extensive revision of a 1928 edition.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Physical Chemistry

MOLECULAR RAYS—Ronald G. J. Fraser—*Macmillan,* 204 p., $3.75. This monograph is one of the Cambridge Series of Physical Chemistry edited by Prof. E. K. Rideal. The technique of the use of the molecular beams, developed chiefly at the hands of Stern and his collaborators at the University of Hamburg, has had many striking applications in recent years. For this reason it is attracting more and more attention from wide-awake investigators as a novel method of approach to both physical and chemical problems. It is finding application in the following fields: gas kinetics, reactions of gas molecules with solid surfaces, diffraction of molecules, investigation of the magnetic and electric properties of molecules (as in the Stern-Gerlach experiment) and in the study of chemical equilibria. The book is excellently organized and beautifully printed.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Philosophy

PARADOXY: THE DESTINY OF MODERN THOUGHT—Richard Rothschild—*R. R. Smith.* 256 p., $3. Mr. Rothschild rebels against the dominance of physical science in present-day thought, and endeavors to bring back some of the non-scientific heritage of the race.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Geology

THE GRAND COULEE—J. Harlen Bretz—*American Geographical Society.* 89 p., $4. Out in the Pacific Northwest there is an enormous dry gorge, the Grand Coulee. Over its sides, in times past, there thundered a series of vast waterfalls that would have made Victoria Nyanza itself seem puny. In this monograph Prof. Bretz gives the place its first adequate geological description, supplemented by an excellent map and a series of fine aerial photographs.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Zoology

SHELLED INVERTEBRATES OF THE PAST AND PRESENT—R. S. Bassler, C. E. Resser, W. L. Schmitt and Paul Bartsch—*Smithsonian Institution Series.* 365 p. The zoology and paleontology of crustaceans and mollusks, with a few other fossil forms, is here given excellently balanced treatment. The four authors all have a happy gift for reconciling the requirements of scientific exposition with the understanding and interest of a non-technical audience.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Botany

THE CACTUS AND ITS HOME—Forrest Shreve—*Williams and Wilkins.* 195 p., $3. Dr. Shreve is peculiarly well equipped for his task of promoting popular understanding of a group of plants in which popular interest is already spontaneously well developed, for he has spent his active scientific life in the Southwest, where cacti are most highly played. He tells what cacti are, how they conduct their life affairs, why their genera and species have the names they have, and finally, how cacti can be cultivated with success and satisfaction.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Ornithology

THE BIRDS OF ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, BERING SEA—Herbert Friedmann—*Smithsonian Institution.* 31 p., 6 pl. St. Lawrence Island was an important stepping-stone for the Asiatic tribes that crossed Bering Strait to found the Indian race in America. The birds brought back by a recent expedition to this half-way house have, therefore, an interest for anthropologists and geographers as well as ornithologists.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Industrial Hygiene

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOR ENGINEERS AND MANAGERS—Carey P. McCord, assisted by Floyd P. Allen—*Harper,* 336 p., $5. The book is very comprehensive, covering among others such subjects as first aid in industry, factory sanitation, foods for industrial workers, mutual benefit association, accident prevention and industrial hazards. Its practical nature will make it especially useful and satisfactory.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

Teaching

THE INTRODUCTORY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES IN THE TRADITIONAL LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE—G. E. Nelson—*Teachers College, Columbia University.* 135 p., $1.50. A study of curriculum content and teaching methods in elementary courses in biology.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932