

• First Glances at New Books

Psychology

THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF STAMMERING—E. J. Boome and N. A. Richardson—*Dutton*, 135 p., \$1.50. The authors, who are English, point out that faulty treatment may be partly the result of faulty classification of the trouble. "Stammering is still listed among 'speech defects,' whereas it should be under some such heading as 'nervous disorders,'" they believe. Results obtained at a center for stammering children in London are discussed.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Exploration

SEARCH—Lincoln Ellsworth—*Brewer Warren and Putnam*, 184 p., \$4. Doubtless everyone has a hankering to take an explorer apart to see what makes him go. In this book one of the foremost of the new generation of explorers—who use wings, but are no less heroic and daring than the old defiers of the ice—obligingly does it for us. His saga of air pioneering in the Arctic would have earned an ungrudging "skoal!" from stout Eric the Red himself.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Library Science

THE AMERICAN YEAR BOOK, 1931—Edited by A. B. Hart and William M. Schuyler—*American Year Book Corp.*, 937 p., \$7.50. A concise summary of American progress during the past year in twenty-seven fields as diverse as surgery and philosophy, politics, aviation and education. A list of societies and research institutions follows each section, and an index at the end of the volume makes every bit of information readily available to the reader. It is a valuable cross-section of American life and a splendid reference book for students and professional men.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Chemistry

VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS—George S. Jamieson—*Chemical Catalog*, 444 p., \$6.50. The book, which is one of the American Chemical Society Monographs, carries as a subtitle, "The chemistry, production and utilization of vegetable fats and oils for edible, medicinal and technical purposes." The author is chemist in charge of the oil, fat and wax laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The aim of the book is to compress within the limits of a small volume as much information as possible

in regard to the vegetable fats and oils. The oils themselves are classified under the headings of non-drying, semi-drying and drying. A section on methods, most of which have been tested in the author's laboratory, and an appendix of data, are included.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Ornithology

THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS—T. A. Coward—*Cambridge Univ. Press*, 137 p., 2s. 6d. A third printing of a handily pocket-fitting book on the ways of birds in the air, by a well-known English author.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Biology

THE MACHINES WE ARE—R. T. Hance—*Crowell*, 381 p., \$3. Good books often grow like good plants, gradually and unconsciously. A while ago, Prof. Hance had laid upon him the task of giving a series of popular radio talks on biology. A thread of continuity ran through the series, and when he had finished, lo! he had a book on his hands. The principles he discusses hold throughout the realm of living things, but naturally the discussion focuses around that animal in which each of us is most interested, namely, himself. The easy, colloquial style necessary for radio presentation carries over into the book, and makes it the more readable.

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Social Science

BASIC SOCIAL SCIENCE—David Snedden and Geneva Snedden—*Scribner's*, 462 p., \$1.40. A well-conceived textbook for junior high school students, which helpfully lets them find out some of the facts for themselves, and thus begin their job of adjusting themselves to the world they must live in.

Science News Letter, April 9, 1932

Statistics

ILLITERACY IN THE UNITED STATES—Sanford Winston—*University of North Carolina Press*, 168 p., \$3. A laborious statistical treatment of rather loosely defined and casually related data. The figures used are those from the 1920 census.

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Astronomy

THE UNIVERSE UNFOLDING—Robert H. Baker—*Williams & Wilkins*, 140 p., \$1. This is the story of how the mind of man has explored the universe. Says the author who is professor of astronomy in the University of Illinois: "Standing on a planet so tiny as to be negligible in comparison with its colossal surroundings, man has devised powerful instruments and methods for exploring the universe. He is arraying the bewildering spectacle of the heavens into a comprehensive scheme." Prof. Baker can not complete the story of the discovery of the universe, for research continues with a rush that nearly rivals the recessional velocities of nebulae recently discovered. But here in this book, one of the series keyed to the Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, 1933, is the narrative to date.

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General Science

LAS SOCIEDADES CIENTIFICA, LITERARIAS Y TECNICAS DEL MUNDO—Enrique Sparrn—*Academia Nacional De Ciencias*, 76 p. A valuable list of the larger scientific societies of the world compiled by the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Argentina.

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Geology

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOLOGY, 1929 AND 1930—J. M. Nickles—*Government Printing Office*, 280 p., 45c. Of interest to geologists.

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Engineering

THE ROMANCE OF THE MERCHANT SHIP—Ellison Hawks—*Crowell*, 319 p., \$3. Although Masefield doesn't give the "Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smokestack" much credit as against the quinquireme of Nineveh or the stately Spanish galleon, there are those who can still see, in modern steam and motor craft, worthy bearers of the worthiest traditions of the sea. To these, as well as to all who seek the principal facts about the principal ships now afloat, Mr. Hawks' book will be most welcome.

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