

# ● First Glances at New Books

## Biography

**PAST YEARS**—Sir Oliver Lodge—*Scribner's*, 364 p., \$3.50. The Nestor of modern physics, who has spanned in his lifetime the whole transition from a science that was heavy, solid, "finished," to a physics that is now almost metaphysics, at last puts forth his autobiography: it makes fascinating reading. Neither does he neglect his interest in psychic investigations; and in the opening chapters he relates a boyhood incident or two that may help to explain his predilections in this direction.

*Science News Letter, October 1, 1932*

## Paleobotany

**THE STORY OF FOSSIL PLANTS**—Edward W. Berry—*Brooklyn Botanic Garden*, 29 p., 40c. Designed primarily as a guide to a series of transparencies in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, this booklet is easily adaptable to a much wider use, for the text is really an admirable summary chapter on the evolution of plants, and the full-page illustrations, from photographs of the transparencies, give good ideas of what ancient forests must have looked like.

*Science News Letter, October 1, 1932*

## Geology-Ecology

**A METHOD OF ESTIMATING GROUND-WATER SUPPLIES BASED ON DISCHARGE BY PLANTS AND EVAPORATION FROM SOIL**—Walter N. White—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 105 p. 4 pl. 1 map, 20c. Working in a dry country (the Escalante Valley of Utah), the author has developed an ecological method of gauging water stored in the ground, which will undoubtedly be of interest and value to plant scientists as well as to earth scientists.

*Science News Letter, October 1, 1932*

## Meteorology

**AIRGRAPHICS**—Alexander McAdie—*Blue Hill Observatory*, 37 p., \$3.50. A useful compilation of diagrams, symbols, conversion tables, formulae and definitions relating to meteorology, particularly aerostatics and aerodynamics.

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## Botany

**FLORA HAWAIIENSIS**—Otto Degener—*Author (Honolulu)*. A well worked out, excellently illustrated flora, which will be welcomed both by botanists resident in the Hawaiian Islands and by visitors who have a little time to spend in studying their remarkable indigenous

vegetation. This book is published as single leaves punched for a loose-leaf binder, with description on one side and an accurate line drawing on the other. This makes for flexibility, as well as for ease of revision and insertion of new species when found and described.

*Science News Letter, October 1, 1932*

## Evolution

**EVOLUTION YESTERDAY AND TODAY**—Horatio Hackett Newman—*Williams and Wilkins*, 171 p., \$1. This newest addition to the Century of Progress series summarizes in clear-cut, readable fashion the present status of the doctrine of evolution, differentiating correctly yet without confusion between known fact and permissible inference.

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## Physics

**RAMBLING THROUGH SCIENCE**—A. L. De Leeuw—*McGraw-Hill*, 320 p., \$2.50. A breezily informal presentation of the elements of the newer physics. Abstruse principles like relativity, the probability theory, atomic chemistry, etc., are brought into terms of common understanding by means of simple homely comparisons. A good book to give to a person blessed with curiosity but not provided with any scientific background. It will make at least the beginning of a scientist of him.

*Science News Letter, October 1, 1932*

## Psychiatry

**THE PSYCHOANALYTIC REVIEW**—Editorial Board; Dorian Feigenbaum, Bertram D. Lewin, Frankwood E. Williams, and Gregory Zilboorg—*Psychoanalytic Quarterly Press*, \$1 per issue, or \$3 per year. A technical journal containing articles by leaders in this field, professional news, book reviews, and a bibliography of current psychoanalytic literature.

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## Aviation

**THE SKYCRAFT BOOK**—Laura B. Harney—*Heath*, 338 p., \$1.08. The story of aircraft, simply told for younger readers; suitable for the upper grades or junior high school work.

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## Evolution

**THE HISTOMAP OF EVOLUTION**—John B. Sparks—*Histomap, Inc. (Chicago)*, \$1. The whole tremendous pageant of the development of life on earth is here arranged in compact form on a single large chart, making it possible for the student to trace in a single vertical sweep the story of the evolution of any group of organisms, or to get a swift horizontal glance at the contemporary life of any given period. The time-scale is represented logarithmically, permitting more detailed treatment of the evolution of man. Of necessity, statements are categorical, but when read under the compiler's blanket caution they should not lead the reader astray. This Histomap will be valuable for school and college use, especially in general survey courses.

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## Psychology

**THE PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY: CEREBRATION AND ACTION**—Leonard T. Troland—*Van Nostrand*, 446 p., \$4. The third volume of a most interesting four-volume work, containing parts V and VI of the complete treatise. As the author says: "The study of cerebration should be the most fascinating and revealing of all of the branches of psychophysiology. Unfortunately, however, it is at the same time the most recondite, from the experimental point of view. Because of this fact, it is necessary to make liberal use of the method of hypothesis, and I have not hesitated to do this."

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## Astronomy

**A STUDY OF THE ETA CARINAE REGION**—Bart J. Bok—*Hoitsema Brothers (Groningen)*, 90 p., 1 folded chart. A detailed study of one of the most interesting regions of the southern Milky Way, distributed in this country as Harvard Reprint 77.

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## Physics

**EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS FOR COLLEGES**—W. A. Schneider and L. B. Ham—*Macmillan*, 259 p., \$2.25. In this text, chapters are so grouped that students take up at the same time experiments illustrating laws which are governed by the same or by a similar set of physical principles.

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