

• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Page 284

Astronomy

KOSMOS—William de Sitter—*Harvard*, 138 p., \$1.75. The Lowell lectures of 1931 are given permanent recording in this book. Dr. de Sitter, a modern universe maker, presents the leading principles and the evolution of man's ideas about the universe. He says: "I hope to have made clear the fundamental elements common to the attitudes at different epochs, which are often apparently so different, and to have shown how at all times the efforts of great men were directed towards the discovery of the great principle of unity, which I cannot express better than by the Greek word chosen as the title of the book."

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Physics

RECENT ADVANCES IN ATOMIC PHYSICS—2 vols.—Gaetano Castellfranchi—*Blakiston*, \$4 each vol. In these two volumes, the first of which is devoted to atoms, molecules and electrons, and the second of which is devoted to the quantum theory, the research within the atom, conducted in recent years, is given comprehensive but simple treatment. The author is professor in the High School for Engineers in Milan, while the translators, W. S. Stiles and J. W. T. Walsh, are on the staff of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, England.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Biology

THE GROWTH OF LIVING THINGS—Evelyn Cheesman—*McBride*, 192 p., \$2. A first book of nature study written by the Curator of Insects of the Zoological Society of London. It treats of more than mere physiological growth; it takes in sensory and psychological development as well, and at least some suggestions of ecology.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Physics

THE PRINCIPLES OF OPTICS—Arthur C. Hardy and Fred H. Perrin—*McGraw-Hill*, 632 p., \$6. This comprehensive text developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will prove of service to many engineers whose college training was received at a time when optics was not regarded as an essential part of an engineering education. It constitutes a valuable reference work. The authors observe: "There is as yet no profession that can

truly be called optical engineering. In this respect, optics differs from the other branches of physics, such as mechanics, heat, electricity, and acoustics. Nevertheless, the ever-increasing importance of optics in industry makes it seem not unlikely that the profession of optical engineering will eventually assume its rightful place alongside the established engineering professions."

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Sociology

AMERICAN CIVIC ANNUAL—Edited by Harlean James—*American Civic Association*, 276 p., \$3. To anyone interested in a better environment in which to live this periodic summary prepared by the American Civic Association is interesting and profitable reading. The short sections of the annual are written by authorities and cover national parks, land planning, the federal city, housing, regional planning, state planning, roadside improvement and various aspects of improvements in cities and towns. There is also a list of the members of the American Civic Association under the title "Who's Who in Civic Achievement."

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

History of Science

SCIENCE AND SUPERSTITION IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY—Philip Shorr—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 82 p., \$1.50. This critical examination of the scientific contents of the two great standard encyclopedias of the eighteenth century, Chambers' *Cyclopaedia* and Zedler's *Universal Lexicon*, gives sharp evidence that even the Enlightenment left a good many corners of the human mind unilluminated.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Botany

ROADSIDE FLOWERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST—Drew Sherrard—*Metropolitan Press (Portland, Ore.)*, 32 p., 4 pl., \$1. Brief essays on the ecological side, attractively bound. In a pocket in the back of the book are four packets of Western wildflower seed, guaranteed to be true to name.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

General Science

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS AND LETTERS, Vol. XXVII, 606 p., \$2., to non-members.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Chemistry

FIXED NITROGEN—Edited by Harry A. Curtis—*Chemical Catalog Co.*, 517 p., \$12. A detailed and authoritative story of chemistry's conquest of the world's nitrogen problem is told in this American Chemical Society monograph to which over a dozen authorities contribute one or more chapters. Dr. Curtis observed that at the beginning of the present century there existed a "nitrogen problem." The agricultural and industrial demands for nitrogen compounds were increasing rapidly and the natural sources of supply were limited. Today the "nitrogen problem," if there exists one, is to find a market for the output of fixed nitrogen potentially available.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Geography

FIRST REPORT ON FOREIGN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES—U. S. Geographic Board—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 113 p., 10c. You may spell it *Angora* if you like, but *Ankara* is better. *Antioche* or *Antakiya* are now preferable to *Antioch*. *Antwerpen* and *Bruxelles* are the right spellings for the Belgian metropolises. The correct adjectival form is *Czechoslovak*, not *Czecho-Slovak* or *Czechoslovakian*. These and thousands of other mooted spellings are settled officially in this new and highly useful Government publication, with locations and concise essential information thrown into the bargain.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Mathematics

THE USEFULNESS OF MATHEMATICS TO ENGINEERS—P. W. Ott—*Ohio State University*. Prepared to convey information to prospective engineering students and their parents, this circular of the Engineering Experiment Station will be profitable reading to anyone who is a bit hazy on the practical utility of mathematics.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Plant Pathology

INITIAL STUDIES OF AMERICAN ELM DISEASES IN ILLINOIS—Hubert A. Harris—*Illinois Natural History Survey*, 70 p., Free. Because of the importance of elms as street and lawn trees, this report will be welcomed by nurserymen, foresters and teachers throughout the Midwest and indeed over the whole elm-growing area of the United States and Canada.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

• First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews
On Page 283

Physics

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE ATOM—Frederick Soddy—*Putnam*, 355 p., \$5. Prof. Soddy's book "The Interpretation of Radium," was long a classic. This book was written to take its place. The Nobel Laureate in Chemistry for 1921 says in the preface: "The fundamental reconstruction of our outlook upon the world of matter, energy, space and time which is now being attempted, mainly as a consequence of the successes of the theory of relativity, seems to neglect the ordinary phenomena of Nature in favour of the exceptional. It has not yet succeeded in giving us any consistent or complete mental picture in place of the older and more mechanical views. In this exposition these purely symbolic and physically meaningless conceptions enter only so far as they are unavoidable. The objective is rather the interpretation of the ordinary properties of matter which the new views singularly fail to account for."

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Nature Study

NATURE RAMBLES: AUTUMN—O. P. Medsger—*Warne*, 160 p., \$2. Fortunate is he who can walk the autumn woods seeing the things that therein dwell, through Oliver Medsger's eyes. He has a winning informal way of making his reader into a co-observer that is not possessed by many other nature writers. The present book constitutes the third in a series; presumably to be followed by a fourth on Winter rambles.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Psychology

THE HOUSE THAT FREUD BUILT—Joseph Jastrow—*Greenberg*, 293 p., \$2.50. A book for the layman describing the Freudian theory in very readable style.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Chemistry

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS BY X-RAYS AND ITS APPLICATION—Georg von Hevesy—*McGraw-Hill*, 315 p., \$3. This volume is the result of the author's visit to Cornell University where he occupied the George Fisher Baker Non-Resident Lectureship in Chemistry. The first part of the book is devoted to the problems of X-ray spectroscopy as they affect the work of the X-ray analyst. In the second part, Prof. von Hevesy tells of the

discovery and investigation of the properties of hafnium, in which he was a major actor. The problems of the abundance of the elements and the composition of the earth and the solar system are dealt with in the third part, while there is also included a lecture on the age of the earth. Prof. von Hevesy is professor of physical chemistry at the University of Freiburg.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Biography-Exploration

THE SAGA OF FRIDTJOF NANSEN—Jon Sørensen—*Norton*, 372 p., \$4.50. Nansen's name and deeds are written in the annals of both geographical exploitation and humanitarianism. This is in a sense the official biography, but it is nevertheless readable and inspiring.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Psychology

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY—Edited by Walter V. Bingham—*University of Chicago Press*, approx. 540 p., \$1.50. A compilation of a series of popular radio talks given under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio, by prominent psychologists. An appendix contains the study manuals or listener's notebooks which were prepared for the radio audience and which include liberal illustrations, a chapter of explanation, and suggested references for additional reading.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Engineering

PHOTOCELLS AND THEIR APPLICATION—V. K. Zworykin and E. D. Wilson—*John Wiley*, 331 p., \$3. The second edition of a book that has proved useful to many in these days when photocells are gaining wider application.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

General Science

THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, 1932—*British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 256 p., 3s. 6d. This issue of an annual volume contains the presidential addresses delivered before the B.A.A.S. meeting at York this year.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Psychology

CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY—Edited by Robert Saudek—*Duke University Press*, \$2 per year, 50c a copy. A quarterly whose editor is in London and associate editor at Duke University and which issues a special edition published in Germany under the title "Charakter." It is therefore called an international quarterly. Psychologists will welcome a new scientific journal devoted to this subject. Such names as McDougall, Saudek, Downey, and Jung, appearing in the table of contents of the first issue promise that the publication will hold great interest.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Eugenics

WEEDS IN THE GARDEN OF MARRIAGE—George Pitt-Rivers—*Noel Douglas*, 85 p., 3s. 6d. A plea for a practical program of eugenic reform in England, which the author calls a "Dysgenic State," as well as elsewhere in this imperfect world.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Paleontology

BEASTS OF THE TAR PITS—W. W. Robinson—*Macmillan*, 45 p., \$1.75. Simply written for children, yet avoiding "baby talk," strikingly illustrated with charcoal sketches, this book tells in attractive fashion the story of the wonderful and terrible animals that were trapped in the La Brea asphalt pits in the days when saber-tooth tigers snarled at dire wolves over such prey as ground sloths and wild camels.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Biology

THE TREMETODE PARASITES OF MARINE MAMMALS—E. W. Price—*Smithsonian Institution*, 68 p., 12 pl. Of interest to parasitologists and to biologists generally.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Chemistry

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND LUBRICANTS—*American Society for Testing Materials*, 286 p., \$1.25. A useful reprint from the proceedings of the Society.

Science News Letter, October 29, 1932

Science News Letter will secure for its subscribers any book or magazine published in the United States. Send check or money order to cover regular retail price \$5 (if price is unknown, change to be remitted) and we will pay postage in the U. S. Address: Library, Science Service, 21st and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.
