

• First Glances at New Books

History of Science

A HISTORY OF MAGIC AND EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE, VOLS. III AND IV—Lynn Thorndike—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 2 v., \$10.00. (Not sold separately.) Elementary textbooks keep on blithely repeating the naive nineteenth-century dictum that in the Middle Ages "there wasn't any science." Meanwhile the labors of Lynn Thorndike pile up monumental evidence to the contrary. Medieval science looks queer to us now (what will ours look like half a millennium hence?); but the truths of today are bound to these buried ideas of yesterday, as a towering tree is bound to its buried roots. These two new books by Prof. Thorndike are very substantial blocks added to the pyramid on which he has been building for many years.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Natural History

LOUISIANA OUT-OF-DOORS: A HANDBOOK AND GUIDE—Percy Viosca, Jr.—*Pub. by author*, 187 p., map, \$1.25. An astonishing amount of information about a most interesting state is packed into this pocket-size book: topographic and ecological divisions; brief descriptions of fish, fowl, and game animals; concise descriptions of towns and what the hunter and fisherman can expect to find in their neighborhood; and lots of pictures.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Gardening—Bibliography

THE SOUTHERN GARDEN—William Lanier Hunt—*Univ. of North Carolina Press*, 57 p., 50c.; 25c. in North Carolina. Library Extension Publication, vol. 1, No. 1. A new publication that promises to help make Southern homes even more charming than they already are. Especially valuable for its workable bibliographies of readily accessible books and magazine articles on various phases of gardening and types of garden plants.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

History

FROM CANOE TO STEEL BARGE ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI—Mildred L. Hartsough—*Univ. of Minnesota Press*, 308 p., \$3.50. Boats are leading characters in this story of the development of Mississippi River country. Between canoes and steel barges came such landmarks of river history as Mackinac boats of the fur traders, keelboats that

did a big passenger business in early nineteenth century, and steamboats that ruled the river in the mid-century. Dr. Hartsough brings the account down to the present, with its questions regarding the river's future as an avenue of transportation.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Ethnology

THE SACRED EDIFICES OF THE BATAK OF SUMATRA—Harley Harris Bartlett—*Univ. of Michigan Press*, 31 p., 31 pl., \$1.75. The temples, grave shrines, and grave houses that were formerly characteristic of the Batak region of Sumatra are described.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Alchemy

ALCHEMY, CHILD OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY—Arthur John Hopkins—*Columbia University Press*, 262 p., \$3.50. Here is the history of alchemy in its many aspects which will be read with great interest by modern chemists interested in the origins of their science and by those who desire to know more about the many centuries dominated by alchemical ideas.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Botany

FRUITS OF WOODY PLANTS—Eva L. Gordon—*New York State College of Agriculture*, 31 p., 10c. (Cornell Rural School Leaflet). A well-illustrated booklet, very useful in school nature study classes when green leaves and bright flowers are in close hiding.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Cosmology

OUR PLANET THE EARTH, THEN AND NOW—Text, Lillian Rifkin; illustrations, Kurt Wiese—*Lothrop, Lee and Shepard*, 62 p., \$1.75. The concept underlying this book is excellent, and the illustrations bold and sweeping. It is therefore the more unfortunate that the text is too brief, and that there are a number of hardly permissible errors in the pictures.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Economics

NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD FINAL REPORT, 1933-34—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 119 p., 25c. This report of the organization which evolved into the National Resources Board contains a section on the role of science in national planning prepared by the National Academy of Sciences' standing committee on government relations of which Dr. J. C. Merriam is chairman.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Economics

MECHANIZATION IN INDUSTRY—Harry Jerome—*National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.*, 484 p., \$3.50. Because of the hue and cry over the effect of the machine upon civilization this volume giving careful and detailed consideration to the problem is very timely.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Economics

A PRIMER—COMMENT ON THE GREAT CONSTRUCTIVE WORK OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN MAKING ARITHMETIC THE BASIC SCIENCE OF GOVERNMENT—Samuel Crowther—*Chemical Foundation*, 31 p., free. A plea with reference to the reciprocal tariff, for applying bookkeeping to the U. S. foreign trade and working out accounts not only as a whole but with individual nations. Comment on the foreign trade report of George N. Peek.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Chemistry—Economics

IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED RECIPROCAL TRADE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SWITZERLAND. BRIEF SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF CHEMISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.—Francis P. Garvan—*Chemical Foundation*, 124 p., free.

Science News Letter, February 2, 1935

Politics

WHERE THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS STANDS TODAY—Quincy Wright—*University of Minn. Press*, 25 p., 25c. No. 9 of The Day and Hour Series of the University of Minnesota.

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