First Glances at New Books

VITAMINS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE —Leslie J. Harris — Cambridge (Mac-millan), 240 p., \$3. Here is the story of the vitamins, not only from A to E but from the first two-century-old discovery of the relation of scurvy to orange juice to the 1933 triumph of the artificial manufacture of vitamin C in the chemical laboratory. From a wide knowledge of the field, the author gives not only all the essential facts about the vitamins but many interesting sidelights on the studies leading to their discovery and use in nutrition. He summarizes the whole subject with a chapter which answers just the questions every reader wants to know: Is instinct or appetite a safe guide in food selection? What should one eat? Can the average person afford the ideal diet? What will he have to show for it if he does follow it? The book is fairly simple but not elementary in style. However, the story progresses step by step with frequent reviews of the facts and with many helpful charts and diagrams, so that careful reading will give real knowledge rather than a confused smattering of information. There are numerous striking and unusual illustrations.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

Geology

THE HISTORY OF THE UPPER MIS-SISSIPPI RIVER IN LATE WISCONSIN AND POSTGLACIAL TIME—William S. Cooper -Univ. of Minnesota Press, 116 p., 46 figures, 4 plates, \$4. A detailed story, well illustrated, of one of the most important and at the same time most difficult of American geologic ages. Of special use to workers in special fields of geology, ecology and geography.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

A. B. C. OF THE ENDOCRINES-Jennie Gregory-Williams & Wilkins, 126 p., \$3. This book is entirely made up of diagrams, schematic drawings, and the like, with explanatory labels and, occasionally, brief text. It might be called the picture book of the glands. The author has undoubtedly taken extreme pains to make the subject clear by this pictorial

method, and the scientific facts have been carefully checked. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether the lay reader can make much of the book without considerable study, nor would this volume seem particularly useful as a handy reference for medical student or practitioner. The interrelations of the endocrine glands and their many effects on different body functions are probably too complex to be reduced to easily understood diagrams. In this volume confusion seems to be increased by the use of numerous unfamiliar symbols.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

Psychic Research

GHOSTS I HAVE TALKED WITH—Henry C. McComas—Williams & Wilkins, 192 p., \$2. The author, a psychologist, relates his experiences in investigating spiritualistic mediums and their methods. In the final chapter, on superstitions, he explains simply and clearly why a great number of people are easily convinced of the claims of spiritualism. The book is entertaining in itself, and should clear up the whole subject for the careful reader.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

TREE FLOWERS OF FOREST, PARK, AND STREET-Walter E. Rogers, Drawings by Olga A. Smith—Pub. by the author, Appleton, Wisconsin, xiv, 500 p., \$7.50. See page 94.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1986

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS AND CONDI-TION OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1935-Smithsonian Institution-Govt. Print. Off., 121 p., 20c.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

SCIENCE GUIDE FOR ELEMENTARY Schools; Vol. 1, No. 8, March, 1935— Calif. State Dept. of Education, Monthly, \$1.25 per year. This new periodical should be warmly welcomed by teachers who want authoritative information briefly and simply presented. The number reviewed is devoted to Trees.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

Science News Letter will secure for its subscribers any book or magazine in print which was 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. When publications are free, send 10c. for handling. Address Book Dept., Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

EASTERN INDUSTRIALIZATION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE WEST—G. E. Hubbard, assisted by Denzil Baring—Oxford, 395 p., \$7. The fact that Japan has adopted the industrial revolutions of the western world for her own and taken jobs away from the cotton mills, blast furnaces and other industries of England and America, particularly, is cause for concern. Now India and China are growing up industrially. This study under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London is written with special reference to Great Britain and Japan. The conclusion written by Prof. T. E. Gregory will be read with profit and also perhaps with dismay by business men interested in Far Eastern trade.

Science News Letter, February 8, 1936

By C. B. S. Evans, M.D.

THIS little book—which can be read in half an hour-contains concentrated practical advice which would have saved many a marriage from going on the rocks, had husbands known its contents earlier. Its author is a member of the Faculty of Obstetrics and Gyne-cology at the Northwestern University Medical School, was a member of the White House Conference Committee on Maternal Care, and is in actual practice of medicine. Plenty of men think they "know it all," and blunder into the divorce court because they blundered clumsily in marriage and then accused someone else of frigidity. To use knowledge, you must first possess it. If something is wrong, maybe it is yourself, after all. If not, probably this isn't your book.—Scientific American

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