

• First Glances at New Books

Astronomy

LET'S LOOK AT THE STARS—Edwin B. Frost—*Houghton Mifflin*, 118 p., \$2. The late Prof. Frost was to the glory of the heavens as Beethoven was to the splendor of music; for he was blind. Yet he possessed to a remarkable degree the power of unsealing the eyes of the rest of us, who look, yet do not see. In this, his last work, he performs the task where it will probably profit most—the book is done for children. He tells his tale with all the direct simplicity of a wise man who knows how to talk to children so that they will not stop listening. The book is beautifully printed, illustrated, and bound; Prof. Frost could not have wanted for a better monument.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Chemistry

SULFURIC ACID MANUFACTURE—Andrew M. Fairlie—*Reinhold Pub. Corp.*, 669 p., \$9.75. A new volume of the American Chemical Society Monograph series which stands midway between elementary treatises and the elaborate three and four volume sets by English and German authorities. Designed as a reference work for the chemical engineer, the technical chemist, the acid manufacturer or the chemical engineering student, the book compresses approved modern practices into a compact form.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Medicine

THE DANGEROUS AGE IN MEN—Chester T. Stone—*Macmillan*, 105 p., \$1.75. This is a simple, matter-of-fact explanation of the prostate gland, its functions and diseases. Advice on how to avoid some of these diseases and a brief discussion of modern methods of successful treatment are given. The lay reader can find in this small volume the answers to many troublesome questions and knowledge of how to protect himself against many serious conditions.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Natural History

A CHILD'S STORY OF THE ANIMAL WORLD—Edward G. Huey; Illustrated by H. R. Daugherty and Olive Earle—*Reynal & Hitchcock*, 355 p., \$3.50. A good big book about animals, written in short sentences of words that should be in every young child's vocabulary, and well filled with halftone and line illus-

trations. Most of the text consists of animal-by-animal accounts, which is as it should be, but there are also chapters on such grown-up topics as ecology and evolution, trimmed down to fit the scale of the rest of the book.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Entomology

OUR ENEMY THE TERMITE—Thomas Elliott Snyder—*Comstock*, 196 p., \$3. Termites have created a good deal of consternation lately, even in places where they have long existed but where public notice has not hitherto been taken of them. This book, the work of a leading scientist in the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will perform the valuable double task of telling the public just what termites are and what mischief they do, and of setting a reasonable limit to justified alarm.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Photography

U. S. CAMERA, 1935—Edited by T. J. Maloney—*Morrow*, 192 p., \$2.75. A photography book decidedly above the average in quality, both in selection and depiction of material and in the workmanship of engraver and printer. One section is devoted to scientific photography; many of the pictures in other parts of the book are of scientific or technological interest.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Industrial Engineering

MECHANICAL PROCESSING OF COTTONSEED—W. R. Woolrich and E. L. Carpenter—*Engineering Experiment Station, Univ. of Tenn.*, 154 p., \$1 paper, \$2 cloth. Outline of the cottonseed oil industry, including history, economics, and detailed fabrication methods from the cotton boll to the consumer.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Industrial Chemistry

RAYON AND SYNTHETIC YARN HANDBOOK: Second enlarged ed.—E. W. K. Schwarz and Herbert R. Mauersberger—*Rayon Pub. Corp.*, 558 p., \$3.75. A reference book, for the use of the industry, that gives much information about manufacturing methods. Two interesting chapters cover the dry cleaning and laundering of rayon and synthetic fabrics.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Geophysics

HOT SPRINGS OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK—E. T. Allen and Arthur L. Day—*Carnegie Institution of Washington*, 525 p., 215 illus., paper \$5.25, cloth \$6. This is a book really deserving of the use of the somewhat overused term, monumental. It has long been awaited by geophysicists and geologists, and it will not disappoint them. The authors spent several years in careful investigation of the thermal phenomena of the Yellowstone region, and several more in digesting and preparing their results. No datum was taken for granted; no theory accepted without thorough re-testing. The outcome is a work that at a stroke renders all previously existing general discussions archaic. This becomes the sourcebook of Yellowstone Park geyser and hot-spring information.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Anatomy

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN ANATOMY—Clyde Marshall—*Saunders*, 385 p., \$2.50. A compact textbook, written with the aim of stimulating the student's interest as well as presenting him with the essential facts of human anatomy. For students of elementary anatomy, but too technical for lay reading.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Juvenile Literature

AT THE ZOO—Arthur O. Cooke—*Platt & Munk*, 152 p., \$1. An animal book for very small children who still need very big print. There are lots of pictures, both colored and plain. All round, a very considerable amount of book for a dollar.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Entomology

INSECT ENEMIES OF SHADE-TREES—Glenn W. Herrick—*Comstock*, 417 p., \$5. Trees planted for shade and ornament are more valuable per individual, even on a cold cash basis, than any others. For this reason, damage or death through the attack of insect pests is of peculiar importance in their case, so that it profits entomologists, foresters and administrators to know something about their special problems. This book tells, with authority and completeness, the essential facts in this particular field.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Demography

HUMAN ECOLOGY—J. W. Bews—*Oxford*, 312 p., \$5. Recognition of man as a natural organism living, as do all other organisms, in constant response to factors in the environment, is effecting a fusion between human sociology and economics, and the corresponding biological science of ecology. In this book, Prof. Bews critically examines the importance of factors that impinge on human existence: food plants and animals, and the climate, soils, diseases, etc., that affect them; diseases that attack man and their furtherance or hindrance; geographic and biotic factors; many other problems of this kind. Man's practical uniqueness, in being able to control in some measure his own environment, is not neglected. A most significant book.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Chemistry

CHEMISTRY GUIDE AND LABORATORY EXERCISES WITH ACCOMPANYING TESTS—M. V. McGill and G. M. Bradbury—*Lyons & Carnahan*, 374 p., 75c. Chemistry Unit and Review Tests to accompany above, 56 p. A high school caliber text in elementary chemistry with tests and review of the true-false type. Chemistry instructors will find their work greatly lightened by the arrangement of the material presented.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Agriculture Economics

HAWAII, A PAGEANT OF THE SOIL—Jean Hobbs—*Stanford Univ. Press*, 185 p., \$2.50. The gods of the fire-mountains made Hawaii, and gave to the islands one of the best soil complexes in the whole fruitful subtropical world. The soil is Hawaii's only treasure, and the history of Hawaii has been a history of transactions attending this treasure, and of the struggles that attended these transactions. This book is a careful recounting of that history.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Zoology

ZOOLOGY OF NEW ENGLAND, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA—Anthony Curtiss—*Guide Printing Co.*, 256 p., \$2. Fourth edition of a valuable regional zoological guide.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Animal Psychology

THE MIND OF THE DOG—F. J. J. Buytendijk—*Houghton Mifflin*, 213 p., \$2.50. Descriptions of many experiments designed to find out how a dog's mind works, by a leading Netherlands psychologist, ably translated into English

by Lilian A. Clare. The author's ideas on the workings of the animal mind are interspersed, here and there, with philosophical asides on the workings of the mind of the animal's master. Not only comparative psychologists, but all dog-lovers (and who isn't one?) will read this book with interest, and mayhap argue about some of the things in it.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Natural History

HUNTING WILD LIFE WITH CAMERA AND FLASHLIGHT—George Shiras, 3d—*Nat'l. Geographic Society*, Vol. I—Lake Superior Region, 450 p., Vol. II—Wild Life of Coasts, Islands, and Mountains, 450 p., 950 photographs, \$5 per set. Shiras has ranged far and seen many things; he shows himself master of the photographer's art as well as of the narrator's; and the publishing Society does not lag behind him in its share of the task of presentation. Certainly, a book that should be in every library where there is interest either in wildlife or photography.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Chemistry

THE CHEMISTRY OF SYNTHETIC RESINS—Carleton Ellis—*Reinhold Pub. Corp.*, 2 vol., 1615 p., \$19.50. An encyclopedic treatise on the chemistry and manufacture of the several thousand synthetic resins which are now used. One hundred and fifty-six pages of the finest type are required for the subject index alone, and this indicates the magnitude of the volumes' scope.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Ornithology

THE NATURE OF A BIRD'S WORLD—Eliot Howard—*Cambridge (Macmillan)*, 102 p., \$2.50. It is hard enough for us to think in terms of the psychology of dog, rat, rabbit or guinea pig; but these are nevertheless mammals—our kin; how are we to get inside a bird's feathers and guess how its mind works? This, nevertheless, is the heroic task which the present author has set for himself; and the resulting survey of things that are significant to birds, and of what may motivate them in their reactions to these things, is in many places illuminating, and always provocative.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Gardening

FLOWER GARDEN PRIMER—Julia H. Cummins—*Macmillan*, 333 p., \$3. Of the making of garden books there is no end, and one wonders, on the appearance of each one, how it is ever going to make a place for itself in the already apparently overcrowded field. However, of the making of gardens there has also been no end, since the days of Great-grandfather Adam, and the books do seem to strike root and take hold. This one will, without much question; it is easily and flowingly written, and contains a lot of practical information. It makes gardening look so attractive that it might even lure a lazy husband off the couch to help an industrious wife!

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Engineering

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HYDRAULIC INSTITUTE OF THE MUNICH TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, BULLETIN 3—Ed. by D. Thoma—*American Society of Mechanical Engineers*, 116 p., \$3.75.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Statistics

STATISTICAL PROCEDURES AND THEIR MATHEMATICAL BASES—Charles C. Peters and Walter R. VanVoorhis—*Pennsylvania State College*, 363 p., \$1.50.

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Geology

THE AMAZING STORY OF MAINE—Leon Harold Tebbetts—*Falmouth Book House*, 104 p., \$2.50. There is plenty of geology in Maine, as farmers of that state know to their annoyance, but vacationists to their joy. This book, which tells the story of the rocks of Maine from the Archaean until now, will help to a better understanding, and therefore to a better appreciation, those who dwell or sojourn along the Maine coast or among the Maine mountains.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

Astronomy

THE EARTH AMONG THE STARS—Marian Lockwood and Arthur L. Draper—*Basic Books*, 91 p., 35c. In spite of its small physical compass, this pocket-sized volume manages to catch and convey an impression of the breathless immensities of space and the stars that swim therein.

Science News Letter, February 22, 1936

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