

• First Glances at New Books

History of Science—Biography

MEN OF SCIENCE—J. G. Crowther—*Norton*, 332 p., \$3.50. Biographies of the great group of near-contemporary British physicists, Davy, Faraday, Joule, Thomson and Maxwell, which reevaluate these men in relation to abstract science, to their fellow men, and to the industrial age in which they lived. Reading these five biographies will give an insight and taste of the method and spirit of nineteenth century British science.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

History—Geography

WHY ON EARTH DID IT HAPPEN—John Robert Swenson—*Tardy Publ. Co.*, 256 p., \$2. The geographic factor, that explains so much of history, is the thread on which chapters of this book are strung. The author shows how geography figured in the exploration of America, how it affected settlement of the country, and how it has played a role in the nation's wars, industries, and world relations. The book is intended for high school or college study, and is, in fact, very readable.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Plant Physiology

GROWTH OF A GREEN ALGA IN ISOLATED WAVE-LENGTH REGIONS—Florence E. Meier—*Smithsonian Institution*, 12 p., 1 pl., 10c. (See p. 184.)

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Mineralogy

THE BOOK OF MINERALS—Alfred C. Hawkins—*Wiley*, 161 p., \$1.50. A "must" book for anyone starting to collect minerals. It gives physical descriptions of important minerals and how to find them. Pictures of various types are included which lack only color. It does for mineralogy what a wildflower book does for the amateur botanist.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Public Health

WHY KEEP THEM ALIVE?—Paul De Kruif—*Harcourt Brace*, 293 p., \$3. See p. 188.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Archaeology

MANUAL OF CHRISTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY—Orazio Marucchi, tr. by Hubert Vecchierello—*St. Anthony Guild Press*, 448 p., \$3.50. This fourth edition of the late Prof. Marucchi's work was brought up to date archaeologically at the Pontifi-

cal Institute in Rome, and has now been translated for an American printing. The book deals mainly with early Christian Rome, and describes cemeteries, inscriptions, basilicas, and art relics. A very helpful feature is the reproduction throughout the text of a great many of the inscriptions and pictures cited.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Ichthyology

TROPICAL FISH, THEIR BREEDING AND CARE—Edwin H. Perkins—*De La Mare*, 151 p., \$1.50. A great deal of very practical information and advice compacted into one small book. The author logically starts by telling what provisions you need to make if you are "going in" for tropicals, and what troubles to expect, and then gives a brief account of a number of the best known and most satisfactory species.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Archaeology

NEO-BABYLONIAN BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS—Ellen Whitley Moore—*Univ. of Michigan Press*, 396 p., \$4. Students of ancient civilization and language will find many details of interest in the large number of tablets—249 in all—presented in this volume. The tablets, which are from the Louvre collection, have heretofore been published in their original form. They are now presented, each expressed in modern alphabetic equivalents, and also translated into English with notes.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Paleontology

A PARADE OF ANCIENT ANIMALS—Harold O. Whitnall; Illus. by H. C. Millard—*Crowell*, 135 p. \$2. Written so that quite-young readers can understand every word of it, illustrated with beautifully drawn, spirited sketches that would grace even a formal monograph, this is a really outstanding popularization of paleontology for children. It takes in the whole long parade of the past, from Eryops to Early Man, giving due consideration to the highlights of each chapter in historic geology.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Archaeology

BIBLE AND SPADE—Stephen L. Caiger—*Oxford*, 218 p., \$2. Students of Bible material will find this very helpful, for it is full of very definite information on archaeological points relating to the Old Testament. The author follows the historical narrative, pausing to show where inscriptions, ruins, and other archaeological evidence shed light. To bring his work neatly up to the minute, he gives an appendix account of the important discoveries at Lachish—writings on potters that offer a contemporary record of events in sixth century B.C. Bible history.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Science—History

THE ROAD TO MODERN SCIENCE—H. A. Reason—*Bell., London*, 306 p., xxiv pl., 6s. A short history of science written, a little didactically, for the British young. In spite of local emphasis and the omission of a number of the names one would expect, the book is good, as a quick survey of the work which has made the background of science today.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

Biology—Philosophy

ORDER AND LIFE—Joseph Needham—*Yale Univ. Press*, 175 p., \$2.50. A biochemist—therefore one who might be expected to be a mechanist—examines the vexed problem of the unity of the organism, with results very interesting to those who are concerned with the philosophical implications of the phenomena of life.

Science News Letter, March 21, 1936

RADIO

March 24, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.

ARMING AGAINST DISEASE—Dr. J. P. Leake, Medical Director of the United States Public Health Service.

March 31, 3:15 p. m., E.S.T.

THE EARTHQUAKE—MENACE AND TOOL—Commander N. H. Heck of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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.