

•First Glances at New Books

Biography

PASCAL, THE LIFE OF GENIUS—Morris Bishop—*Reynal & Hitchcock*, 398 p., \$3.50. A satisfactory biography of high literary and factual quality. Pascal's many facets are exposed in chapters treating him as prodigy, inventor, convert, physicist, mathematician, man of the world, lover, mystic, penitent, polemist, philosopher, saint and man.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

American Archaeology

ANCIENT LIFE IN MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA—Edgar L. Hewett—*Bobbs Merrill*, 364 p., \$4. A companion volume to the author's "Ancient Life in the American Southwest." In this new book, Prof. Hewett fits ancient ruins and living communities of the tropics into the panorama of native American life. "What I most desire to impress," he writes, "is that culture in ancient America had reached, in most places, a plane of sustained value. . . . It was the product of disciplined, directed skill, sustained by profound appreciation of esthetic values, and, underlying it, a philosophy of life which promises rich reward for painstaking study."

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Astronomy

THE HANNA STAR DOME—Dorothy A. Treat—Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 47 p., illus., 25c. Vest-pocket-sized guide for use in connection with a unique astronomical exhibit in the Cleveland Museum, containing much information in very little space.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Physiology—History of Science

A DISSERTATION ON THE SENSIBLE AND IRRITABLE PARTS OF ANIMALS—Albrecht Von Haller with introduction by Oswei Temkin—*Johns Hopkins*, 49 p., \$1. Reprint of one of the great classics of science, first presented in 1752.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Gardening

THE TROPICAL GARDEN, ITS DESIGN, HORTICULTURE AND PLANT MATERIALS—Lorraine E. Kuck and Richard C. Tongg—*Macmillan*, 378 p., 26 pl., illus., \$3. Macmillan's have published very many excellent garden books, but there has been something of a gap in the field of tropical gardening. This is now very well supplied, in a book that

discusses the peculiar problems of gardening in the tropics, suggests methods for meeting them, and describes the best plant materials to use.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Geology

GEOLOGY OF THE COASTAL PLAIN OF SOUTH CAROLINA—C. Wythe Cooke—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 196 p., 2 folded maps, 60c.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Chemistry

MODERN PLASTICS; Oct. 1936—*Breskin & Charlton Pub. Corp.*, 332 p., \$2. Under the guise of a regular issue, this journal publishes a catalog and directory number that becomes a guide to all phases of plastics. The summaries of various types of materials, from the phenolics to shellac, termed the original thermoplastic, make it a valuable reference book.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Economic Geography

NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES, A BASIS FOR ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY—Richard M. Field—*Barnes & Noble*, 203 p., 75c. Another book for the College Outline Series; though intended primarily as an aid to students "boning" for examination, the information is so well chosen and so compactly presented that many others, out of college as well as in, will want it for reference.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Ornithology

A NEW RACE OF THE SONG SPARROW FROM THE APPALACHIAN REGION—Alexander Wetmore—*Smithsonian Institution*, 3 p., 5c.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Gardening—Botany

WILD GARDENS OF NEW ENGLAND—Walter Prichard Eaton—*W. A. Wilde Co.*, 124 p., \$1.50. One who loves wildflowers in their natural state, and who also loves gardens, tells how he induces his untamed friends to come and live with him, and talks discursively of other things the while.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Economics—Chemistry

RUBBER, A STORY OF GLORY AND GREED—Howard and Ralph Wolf—*Covici, Friede*, 533 p., \$4.25. Comprehensive and written with verve, this is a history of rubber, the raw material, a history of rubber invention and research and a history of rubber as big business. Especially interesting to those scientifically inclined will be the part devoted to laboratory and mill, and particularly the chapter titled "Synthetic." The authors, rubber chemist and newspaper writer, tell their story with scholarly excitement. And while blood flows in the historical accounts, there is a comprehensive technical bibliography.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Science

THE MARCH OF SCIENCE, A POPULAR INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSE AND MAN'S PLACE ON EARTH—H. Gordon Garbedian—*Covici, Friede*, 320 p., plates, \$3. An easily flowing, conversational discourse of all things in heaven and earth, from conjectures on what the 200-inch telescope may show us to possibilities of the new plastic chemistry.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

Bacteriology

A TEXTBOOK OF BACTERIOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATIONS (rev. ed.)—Curtis M. Hilliard—*Ginn*, 339 p., illus., \$3.50. A textbook that avoids the usual "pre-medical" approach, and handles the subject as an integral part of a well-rounded general education.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1936

General Science

WONDER WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE SERIES: WONDER WORLD OF ANIMAL LIFE, 64 p.; WONDER WORLD OF MODERN MARVELS, 64 p.; WONDER WORLD OF WHY AND HOW, 64 p.—*Wm. Collins*, 60c each. Many pictures and easy-running text make these low-priced elementary science books a good buy for any one, but especially perhaps for households with omnivorous-minded growing children. Though written in England they can be read with profit anywhere.

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