

# • First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews  
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## Mathematics—Biography

**MEN OF MATHEMATICS**—E. T. Bell—*Simon and Schuster*, 592 p., plates, \$5. Because much of the language of mathematics is quite foreign to most people, the opportunity to understand the ways and accomplishments of mathematicians is infrequent. Through this enchantingly written biographical history one who does not know a prime number from X can acquire some of the flavor and enthusiasm of those who practice the queen of the sciences. Dr. Bell is a professor at California Institute of Technology; he also writes fiction. The lives and achievements of the great mathematicians from Zeno to Poincaré are included.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Engineering

**COAL, ITS CONSTITUTION AND USES**—William A. Bone and Godfrey W. Himus—*Longmans*, 631 p., illus., \$7.50. Britain's modern greatness was founded largely on coal; the present illness of her collieries gives concern to the whole kingdom. Which makes the present scholarly examination of coal, primarily from the engineering standpoint but involving of necessity economics, geology, and chemistry as well, of particular interest. Large sections of the book are as useful on this side of the Atlantic as they are on the other.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Economics

**OIL: STABILIZATION OR CONSERVATION? A CASE STUDY IN THE ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL CONTROL**—Myron W. Watkins—*Harper*, 269 p., charts, \$3.50. Oil in America is both a great benefit and a great bane. We would not know what to do without it—and we have not yet learned what to do with it, so far as the problem presented by its technological-economic tangle is concerned. This book stems from a study by the Brookings Institution during NRA days; additional data and new developments bring it down to date.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Herpetology

**SNAKES OF MARYLAND**—Howard A. Kelly—*Natural History Society of Maryland*, 103 p., illus., 10 col. pl., 60c. This brochure might well serve as a model of how a special fauna for a particular region should be treated.

Simple and clear descriptions, accounts of habits, careful citation of records are supplemented with a superabundance of illustrations in both halftone and color. It should be useful for the whole group of states bordering on Maryland.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Motion Pictures

**EDUCATIONAL FILM CATALOG, A CLASSIFIED LIST OF 1175 NONTHEATRICAL FILMS WITH A SEPARATE TITLE AND SUBJECT INDEX**—Dorothy E. Cook and Eva Cotter Rahbek-Smith, Compilers—*Wilson*, 134 p., \$2, Quarterly supplements, \$2 per year. An indispensable guide to what non-theatrical films are available and how they may be obtained. This is a major service to those who are using visual educational methods in their work. The list proper is conveniently arranged in the Dewey Decimal Classification.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Geography

**MOUNTAIN GEOGRAPHY, A CRITIQUE AND FIELD STUDY**—Roderick Peattie—*Harvard*, 257 p., illus., \$4. He who runs may not read this book; it is rather for the scholar; but such a one it will reward.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Calendar

**THE ROMANCE OF THE CALENDAR**—P. W. Wilson—*Norton*, 351 p., \$3. Whether the calendar ever gets reformed again or not, we shall still take much interest in any system of telling the days of the month, for they bring occasions we are all greatly interested in: birthdays, holidays, payday. This perennial interest in calendar subjects should insure the success of this book, which traces the history of calendars and calendar-makers, and in the last section takes us for a look into the future. It is briskly and popularly written, but by no means a superficial book for a' that.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Home Economics

**MODERNISTIC FLOWER ARRANGING**—Barbara Sagel Meisse—*Orange Judd*, 160 p., plates, \$2. New ideas in table and house decoration with flowers, well discussed, and illustrated with halftone plates of most exceptional photographic technique.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Botany

**FIRST BOOK OF GRASSES: THE STRUCTURE OF GRASSES EXPLAINED FOR BEGINNERS** (Rev. Ed.)—Agnes Chase—*W. A. Silveus*, 125 p., illus., \$1.25. Students (and independently working botanists) who think that grasses are "hard" should be given this little book. Its simple, clear, step-by-step presentation, backed by illustrations that bring out critical features unmistakably, will make an enthusiastic agrostologist out of anyone who is interested at all in outdoor things.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Economics

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1936**—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 377 p., 55c.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Physics

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY OF ELASTICITY**—R. V. Southwell—*Oxford University*, 509 p., \$10. Voluminous British text which covers the ground needed for an honors course in the strength of materials. Stress is laid on the physical principles which underlie the theory of elasticity and the mathematical treatment of the subject is broadly and thoroughly covered.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Zoology

**HISTOIRE NATURELLE DE LA CONNAISSANCE CHEZ LE SINGE INFÉRIEUR; NO. II: LE SYNCRÉTIQUE, 58 p., illus., 12 fr; NO. III: L'ABSTRAIT, 54 p., illus., 12 fr.**—*Hermann & Cie, Paris*.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

**PSYCHOLOGY OF SEX**  
by HAVELOCK ELLIS

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Additional Reviews  
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## Conservation

**SOIL EROSION AND ITS CONTROL**—Quincy Claude Ayres—*McGraw-Hill*, 365 p., illus., \$3.50. A thorough, scholarly yet highly readable book on the most important single physical fact confronting the people of this country today; on the mastering of which, indeed, our very national existence depends. Prof. Ayres begins with the phenomena of soil erosion and its causal factors, outlines methods of control and tells their cost, discusses special machinery from a very practical viewpoint, and concludes with a stimulating chapter on soil conservation and land use.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Conservation

**STATE PLANNING PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**—National Resources Committee—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 128 p., 25c. A state-by-state summary of what has been attempted, what done, and what yet to be done in such important fields as water use, housing, parks, soil and mineral resources, in all the federated commonwealths.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Marine Biology

**ANIMALS OF THE SEASHORE**—Muriel Lewin Guberlet—*Metropolitan*, 412 p., illus., \$2.50. A pocket-sized book, devoted primarily to the seashore fauna of the Pacific Northwest coast, each page giving a description of an animal and faced with a halftone illustration. Most of these pictures are excellent, especially when the difficulty of their subjects is considered. This book should be highly valuable for schools and equally useful to the solitary naturalist.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Medicine

**SKIN DISEASES IN CHILDREN**—George M. McKee and Anthony C. Cipollaro—*Hoeber*, 345 p., illus., \$5.50. A book for physicians, written by a professor and an associate in dermatology and syphiology at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School, Columbia University.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Medicine—Biography

**LIFE AND CONVICTIONS OF WILLIAM SYDNEY THAYER, PHYSICIAN**—Edith Gittings Reid—*Oxford*, 243 p., \$2.50. Dr. Thayer, a successor of Sir William

Osler as Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, was internationally known. An account of his experiences abroad during the World War forms an exciting section of the book.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Medical Care—Economics

**SICKNESS AND INSURANCE, A STUDY OF THE SICKNESS PROBLEM AND HEALTH INSURANCE**—Harry Alvin Millis—*Univ. of Chicago*, 166 p., \$2. Written by the Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Ornithology

**JACK MINER AND THE BIRDS AND SOME THINGS I KNOW ABOUT NATURE** (4th printing)—Jack Miner—*Reilly & Lee*, 207 p., illus., \$1. A new printing of a book about wildlife and its conservation, by a natural-born woodsman who has earned his right to say his say by many years of patient study, and by operating a successful private game sanctuary of his own.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Entomology

**STRANGE INSECTS AND THEIR STORIES**—A. Hyatt Verrill—*Page*, 205 p., illus., \$2.50. This book aims at instructing through entertaining, and even through startling; but the quality of the facts imparted does not suffer thereby. By such books as this first interest is aroused, that in some readers at least grows into systematic study.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Historical Geography

**AN ATLAS OF EMPIRE**—J. F. Horabin—*Knopf*, 141, iii p., maps., \$1.50. Terse comment accompanying uncluttered outline maps, telling of the spread of the domination of European nations (including Europeanized Japan) at the expense of less aggressive peoples and over thinly occupied regions. The author takes no sides, does not philosophize, just tells the story as objectively as he can.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Television

**TELEVISION; TECHNICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**—E. J. G. Lewis—*Pitman*, 95 p., \$1.75. Glossary of terms which have come into being with the advance of television.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Autobiography

**RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS**—Sir J. J. Thomson—*Macmillan*, 451 p., \$4. The discoverer of the electron and one of the great figures in contemporary physics tells the story of his life and the many developments that centered around Trinity College and Cambridge. Important to historians of science, it is also a human document. The chapter on psychical research, telepathy and water-dowsing will arouse interest; he considers experiments on the dowsing power well worth making.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Photography

**PICTURING MIRACLES OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE**—Arthur C. Pillsbury—*Lippincott*, 236 p., illus., \$3. Anyone who has ever seen one of Mr. Pillsbury's films will own that the title of his book is well justified: the daily events of nature do have a miraculous look as he brings them out with his ingenious time-lapse photographic apparatus. Mr. Pillsbury's modesty might decry the feeling that most beholders have, that there is somewhat of the miraculous about his own contribution to the net result. To this book, telling how he does it, he contributes lavishly in illustrations, both sequences and stills.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Anthropology

**THE MANDIBLES OF SINANTHROPUS PEKINENSIS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**—Franz Weidenreich—*Geological Survey of China*, 132 p., 15 plates and 100 text-figures. Available through *A. G. Seiler & Co.*, 1224 Amsterdam Ave., New York City, or *G. E. Stechert & Co.*, 31-33 E. 10th St., New York City. See page 164.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Physics

**IONS IN SOLUTION**—R. W. Gurney—*Cambridge (Macmillan)*, 260 p., \$3. Book which is intended primarily for research physicists and chemists in the field of electrochemistry.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*

## Electrical Engineering

**A CLASS BOOK OF MAGNETISM AND ELECTRICITY**—H. E. Hadley—*Macmillan*, 512 p., \$2.50. British text for courses corresponding to junior college work in this country.

*Science News Letter, March 13, 1937*