

•First Glances at New Books

History of Science

PRELUDE TO CHEMISTRY—John Read—*Macmillan*, 328 p., illus., 63 pl., \$5. Whoever is interested in the history of science, or in the study of modern chemistry, must surely read this book: it is definitely a "required subject." It tells the long story of alchemy, the forebear of chemistry. Its author, professor of chemistry in the University of St. Andrews, has that happy faculty often found among his countrymen, of presenting the fruits of ripe scholarship in a most fascinatingly readable style—and then modestly pretending that it's all very trifling. The halftone plates and the many text figures are fully worthy of the literary content.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Physics

PROPERTIES OF MATTER—F. C. Champion and N. Davy—*Prentice-Hall*, 296 p., \$4.50. British text and reference book for students of physics and physical chemistry. Detailed and complete with good descriptions of the major experiments by which the properties of matter are determined.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Television

TELEVISION OPTICS, AN INTRODUCTION—L. M. Myers—*Pitman*, 338 p., illus., \$8.50. A British television research worker describes those basic principles by which television turns a scene into electricity, sends it over the air by radiation and reconverts it back into visible images.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Vocations

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, A COMPARATIVE SURVEY—Franklin J. Keller and Morris S. Viteles—*Norton*, 575 p., illus., \$4. An important book, and one that will interest many outside that group of vocational counselors and advisers of youth for whom this comprehensive study will be of greatest value.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Biology

BIOLOGY: A STUDY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF LIFE FOR THE COLLEGE STUDENT—U. A. Hauber and M. Ellen O'Hanlon—*Crofts*, 559 p., illus., \$3.90. A new textbook in general biology for colleges, and a most unusual one. The authors (and particularly Dr. Hauber, who is responsible for the zoological

chapters) are not content merely to present facts for the students to learn; they do their best to provoke the students to think. Yet the philosophical ideas are presented in such simple, straightforward fashion, salted with colloquial phrases and homely metaphor, that the student is lured into thought without realizing that he *is* thinking.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY—C. E. Kenneth Mees—*Macmillan*, 227 p., illus., \$3. Dr. Mees, who is probably the nation's best authority on photographic science, here brings together in written form his Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution in London. This implies, as it is almost needless to say, that they are presented in non-technical language. The history, the art and the science of photography are most pleasingly present in a volume which every photographer, amateur or professional, will wish to add to his library.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Agronomy

ENGINEERING PROPERTIES OF SOIL—C. A. Hogentogler and others; Ed. by C. A. Hogentogler, Jr.—*McGraw-Hill*, 434 p., illus., \$5. A book for the advanced student and the working engineer, devoted particularly to problems confronted in road construction, the placing of heavy buildings, and all other operations that involve the movement or modification of soil and loading it with burdens.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Physics

ELEMENTS OF ELECTRICITY, A PRACTICAL DISCUSSION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS AND PHENOMENA OF ELECTRICITY AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS IN THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL WORLD—William Esty, Robert Andrews Millikan, Wynne L. McDougal—*American Technical Soc.*, 248 p., illus., \$2. Emphasis on the practical aspects of electricity marks this new revision of a popular book which has found wide use in trade schools of the modern education system.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Biology

HISTOIRE D'UN COQ, SA CINÉTIQUE SEXUELLE—Véra Dantchakoff—*Hermann & Cie, Paris*, 41 p., illus., 12 fr.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Physics

THE WORLD IN MODERN SCIENCE, MATTER AND QUANTA—Leopold Infeld—*Victor Gollancz Ltd., London*, 287 p., 5s. Readers of popular books on science, in England and America, will not be as familiar with the name of Infeld as they are with the Jeans and Eddingtons of the present day, but here is a book which has the same flair for analogy that marks the writing of these better known scientist-authors. Dr. Infeld is a theoretical physicist at Lwów University in Poland who is now at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton with the master Einstein. Prof. Einstein, in fact, writes a praising foreword to the book which truly says "the intelligent layman can obtain from this book a profound insight into the problems of modern physics, and anyone who is anxious to acquire knowledge will find the theme of this book no less dramatic than an exciting novel."

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Biography

TRAVEL AND SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS OF THOMAS NUTTALL—Francis W. Pennell—*Phila. Botanical Club*, 51 p., 5 pl., \$1. Published as No. 18 of *Bartonia*. Obtainable by ordering directly from the Philadelphia Botanical Club. (See p. 185.)

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Engineering

DIESEL ENGINES—P. E. Biggar—*Macmillan*, 165 p., \$3.25. A Canadian consulting engineer reviews the history and operation of Diesel engines in a book which beginners in the field will need. A boom in American Diesel development in the transportation field is predicted because of the recent lowering of train fares to two cents a mile. Buses must meet this competition and Diesel engines are one way out.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937

Medicine

THE TRUTH ABOUT BRIGHT'S DISEASE—William R. Ohler—*Harvard*, 80 p., \$1. A diagram and a description of the kidneys and their function leads up to an explanation of Bright's Disease, description of the different forms of this condition, symptoms, diet, treatment and as much as is known about prevention. The book is non-technical, concise and informative.

Science News Letter, March 20, 1937