

• First Glances at New Books

Comparative Anatomy

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VERTEBRATE SKULL—G. R. de Beer—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 552 p., 143 plates, \$10. A massive, thoroughly complete and detailed discussion of the development of a number of types of vertebrate skulls, from *Polypterus* to *Homo*. The author dedicates it "to the memory of Thomas Henry Huxley, William Kitchen Parker, Ernst Gaupp, Jan Willem van Wijhe, as a monument to their labours in the study of the development of the vertebrate skull;" it is a monument no less to the patience and scholarship of the author himself. Its publication automatically makes this book a necessity for every department of zoology where comparative anatomy is taught.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Anthropology

PRIMITIVE RELIGION—Paul Radin—*Viking*, 322 p., \$3.50. Savages are human personalities, and their religion is intimately embedded in their lives and economic problems, Dr. Radin reminds us in this humanistic account of primitive man's religious life. His explanations, with many incidents from tribal life, stress two types of individual who play major roles in religion, shaping and disrupting it.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Archaeology, Juvenile

THE GIFT OF THE RIVER—Enid LaMonte Meadowcroft—*Crowell*, 235 p., \$2. A teacher, interested in the colorful, human story of ancient Egypt, has written a history of the Egyptians for children. Following the present trend in history books, this one stresses social history and changes in custom and invention, more than the dynasties of kings.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Language

THE ROMANCE OF THE ALPHABET—Arthur B. Allen—*Warne*, 126 p., \$1.50. A pleasantly written little book, by an author who finds the alphabet a really lively and worth-while subject to explore, and who succeeds in making readers share his enthusiasm. It is one of the British "Teachers' Handy Information Books."

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Geography

EAST OF THE GREAT GLACIER—Helge Ingstad—Knopf, 268 p., illus., \$3. A strange modern chapter in world colonization is told by this Norwegian who

was commissioned by his government in 1931 to establish a base in East Greenland to test the Danish claim to that region. The venture failed politically. But the pioneer's experiences make a record of great interest.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Anthropology

EARLY MAN: AS DEPICTED BY LEADING AUTHORITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA, MARCH, 1937—George Grant MacCurdy, ed.—*Lippincott*, 362 p., illus., \$5. Here is the imposing array of papers read by 36 foreign and American scientists at their recent meeting for discussing together the problems of man's past. These papers show how the geologist, botanist, and many other types of expert are being drawn into the task of re-discovering human pre-history.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Documentation

BOOKS & DOCUMENTS: DATING, PERMANENCE AND PRESERVATION—Julius Grant—*Chemical Publishing Co. of N. Y.*, 218 p., illus., \$4.50. Librarians and collectors will be especially interested in the discussion of how to tell how old is a book or document, while publishers, printers and those commercially interested in printing are concerned with the discussion of permanence and preservation.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Natural History

SWIFT MOVEMENTS IN THE TREES AND AT THEIR ROOTS—Phyllis Kelway—*Longmans*, 189 p., illus., \$2.50. Small English animals—squirrels, shrews, toads—briskly photographed and casually chatted about. A really charming book.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Ethnology

A HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, AND NATURAL DESCRIPTION OF CALIFORNIA BY PEDRO FAGES, SOLDIER OF SPAIN—translated by Herbert Ingram Priestley—*Univ. of California press*, 85 p., \$1.50. In this translated version, one of the earliest descriptions of California becomes available to a wider circle of readers. Fages' manuscript, a report to the Viceroy in 1775, has already won appreciation from ethnologists for its valuable observations on Indians of California.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Natural History

KOALA MAGAZINE—*Koala Club of Australia*, 32 p., quarterly, \$2. per year, for club membership and subscription. Address: Frank L. Edwards, The Koala Club of Australia, Twyford House, 17 Castlereagh St., Sydney, Australia. Dedicated primarily to promoting the interests of Australia's delightful little "native bear" or Koala, now sorely menaced with extinction, this new magazine also includes within its scope questions concerning Australian wildlife generally. One is left with the decided impression that in many ways North America and the Southern Continent have much in common, and that alert minds in both regions are thinking along much the same lines.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Expositions

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR, 1939—Frank Monaghan—*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 48 p., illus., 50 c. Backgrounded by historical and pictorial accounts of great fairs of the past, this is an informative preview of the spectacle now evolving in Flushing Meadow.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHIC HINTS & GADGETS—Frank R. Fraprie and Franklin I. Jordan, eds.—*American Photographic Publishing Co.*, 316 p., illus., \$3.50. Methods of solving many troublesome photographic problems are described in this amply-illustrated book by the men who solved the problems. Valuable to the advanced amateur or professional photographer.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Geography

THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE—George D. Hubbard—*Appleton-Century*, 876 p., illus., \$5. Man versus his environment is the great theme of this very comprehensive college text. It not only includes present economic, climatic, and population factors, but also shows how events of the past have shaped conditions as they are today.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1938

Physics

EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS—Samuel Robinson Williams—*Ginn*, 158 p., \$1. Fifty-two experiments in elementary college physics as developed at Amherst College.

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