

## ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE

The success of these books is in direct proportion to the clear cut presentation of each subject by an outstanding authority.

### STARS AND PLANETS

By Donald H. Menzel, Ph.D.,  
*Associate Professor of Astronomy,  
Harvard*

The history of astronomy, the astronomer's tools, various bodies of the solar system, stars, constellations, nebulae and stellar systems. 126 pages, illustrated—1938. \$1.00

### THE DRAMA OF CHEMISTRY

By Sidney J. French, Ph.D.,  
*Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Colgate*

How man deals with atoms. Atom structure and modern practice—Chemistry in industry, medicine and War—175 pages, illustrated—1937. \$1.00

### SPACE, TIME AND RELATIVITY

By H. Horton Sheldon, Ph.D.,  
*Professor of Physics, New York Univ.*

This volume considers the historical background of Einstein's theories and presents the special and general theory of relativity. 104 pages. \$1.00

### ENERGY AND MATTER

By Charles D. Bazzoni, Ph.D.,  
*Professor of Physics, Univ. of Penna.*

New ideas of the structure of matter, the nature of energy, how matter absorbs and emits radiation, and interconversion of matter and energy. 152 pages—1937. \$1.00

### THE EARTH

By Chester A. Reeds, Ph.D.,  
*Curator of Geology and Invertebrate Paleontology, America Museum of Natural History*

A treatise in geology. The history of geology, origin of the earth, the atmosphere, the hydrosphere, the lithosphere, the centrosphere, volcanoes, earthquakes, etc. 120 pages. \$1.00

### THE PLANT WORLD

By C. Stuart Gager, Ph.D., Sc.D.,  
*Director of Brooklyn Botanic Garden*

Classification of plants, plant societies, respiration, pollination, plants and insects, seed dispersal, how we came to have different kinds of plants, great plant breeders. Darwinism and evolution. 136 pages—1934. \$1.00

### HEREDITY AND VARIATION

By L. C. Dunn, D.Sc.,  
*Professor of Zoology, Columbia Univ.*

A treatment of genetics. Reproduction and heredity, heredity and sex, origin of variations, and application of new ideas. 120 pages—1934. \$1.00

### FOSSILS

By Richard Swann Lull, Ph.D., Sc.D.,  
*Sterling Professor of Paleontology and Director of Peabody Museum, Yale Univ.*

What they tell us of plants and animals of the past. A treatise in the field of paleontology. 114 pages—1935. \$1.00

### THE SMALLEST LIVING THINGS

By Gary N. Calkins, Ph.D., Sc.D.,  
*Prof. of Protozoology, Columbia Univ.*

Life as revealed by the microscope. Some of the topics are filterable viruses, bacteria, spirochaetes, protoplasm, protophyta, protozoa, and parasitism among protozoa. 135 pages—1935. \$1.00

Prices Include Postage

THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY  
468 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

## Photography Used to Detect Counterfeits of Rare Books

WITH famous early printed books, and even those not so ancient, selling for as much as \$5,000 a copy, there is every reason to watch for forgeries or facsimiles that are intended to trick the unwary collector or librarian into paying more than a thousand times what the books are really worth.

Facsimile copies of rare books serve a very useful purpose in making classics available to scholars who can not consult the highly prized and closely guarded originals. But when they are allowed to creep into valuable collections in the guise of the originals themselves, it is like circulating counterfeit money.

One of the leading bibliophile detectives is Dr. L. Bendikson, chief of the Huntington Library's department of photographic reproductions. He tells how to distinguish between a photolithographic copy of a rare document—the most deceiving sort of reprint—and an origi-

nal. A portion of the disputed page and the corresponding part of the original are photographed upon 35 mm. microfilm and then enlarged. The letters of the lithographed reprint will be found to be not clean cut as they are when they are printed from type. They bulge irregularly in different parts and are irregular in outline. One look is enough to show that the two copies are not the same.

Various lights, microscopy and chemical analysis are also used in this literary detective work. Sometimes the paper or the ink can be shown to be modern whereas the document is supposed to be old.

A letter written by Christopher Columbus in 1493 to announce his discovery of what proved to be a new world was the subject of one of the most famous of literary counterfeits, so pronounced in a famous lawsuit in 1899.

*Science News Letter, April 16, 1938*

### MEDICINE

## Parrot Fever Danger Lurks in Healthy Birds

DANGER of parrot fever, that rather mysterious ailment that strikes unexpectedly and often fatally, still exists, even though no epidemics have been reported recently. The reason is that the virus that causes the disease may be carried for a long period in the bodies of healthy birds. Consequently inspection and even quarantine may be ineffective in detecting the disease among birds and preventing its spread to other birds or to humans.

Humans may get the disease very readily from infected birds, both sick ones and healthy carriers. Birds of the psittacine or parrot family, which includes parrots, parrakeets, love birds, macaws, cockatoos, lorries and lorikeets are especially prone to the disease. It sometimes affects other birds, such as canaries in captivity, wild birds and even domestic fowl.

Parrot fever epidemics have occurred frequently in families that kept pet parrots or other birds of the parrot family.

An outbreak of 11 cases occurred, in spite of elaborate precautions, in the laboratories of the U. S. National Institute of Health when investigation of the disease was under way. Some of those attacked had had no contact with the sick birds. An inspector of aviaries in New York City recently contracted the disease although no illness had been detected among the birds he inspected. His illness was considered almost certainly the result of contact with a bird that was a healthy carrier of the infection.

The only practical way to prevent the disease in man is by avoiding contact with tropical birds, health authorities have concluded. For this reason the health departments of New York State and New York City are considering regulations to prohibit in the state and city the importation, breeding, sale or giving away of birds of the parrot or psittacine family.

*Science News Letter, April 16, 1938*