

• First Glances at New Books

Archaeology

THE ROMANCE OF HUMAN PROGRESS—Arthur Stanley Riggs—*Bobbs-Merrill*, 405 p., \$5. That Romans, Greeks, and other ancients were surprisingly like us is inevitably the most impressive thought carried away from a popular book on archaeology such as this. The author has chosen to tell facts learned as a result of archaeological investigation, rather than stress expeditions. Thus, the reader can learn what is old in chapters on housing, vanity, war, the healing arts, and many other human problems close to the hearts and minds of people in every age.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Economics

CAUSE AND CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE (2d. ed.)—E. C. Harwood—*Amer. Inst. for Econ. Res.*, 224 p., \$2.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

General Science

REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM, 1938 — *Gouv. Print. Off.*, 121 p., 20 c.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Physics

INTERPRETATIONS AND MISINTERPRETATIONS OF MODERN PHYSICS—Phillipp Frank—*Hermann & Cie, Paris*, 58 p., 18 fr. Ever since it became fashionable to interpret Einstein's relativity for the layman the amount of scanty misinformation which has been perpetuated about this and other aspects of modern physics has grown from year to year. To many of the wild statements which have been pushed on to the lay public Prof. Frank brings a much-needed spotlight of explanation. This little book has been needed for a long time by science.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Physics

THE PRINCIPLES OF STATISTICAL MECHANICS—Richard C. Tolman—*Oxford Univ. Press*, 660 p., \$9. The great number of pages in this splendid work are only a rough index of the importance of the subject matter and the comprehensiveness with which Prof. Tolman handles this complex work. Principles of ordinary mechanics allow scientists to make precise predictions as to the future state of a mechanical system from precise knowledge of its initial state. On the other hand, statistical mechanics fulfill the more difficult role of allowing reasonable predictions as to the future state of a system although the start is made from incomplete knowledge of the

initial state. This forecasting of the future is preeminent in the newer physics with its treatment of the atom and its nucleus. Here is a book that will go into the reference library of the universities of the world and be used for years to come.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Botany

INDEX TO NORTH AMERICAN FERNS—Maurice Broun, comp. and ed.—*Maurice Broun, Route 1, Orwigsburg, Pa.*, 217 p., \$2.50. This book, though small in bulk, will figure very largely in making life easier for pteridologists and for botanists in general. It is a very carefully compiled checklist, going into subspecies and forms and giving full synonymy and habitat notes.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Wildlife Management

WILDFOWL FOOD PLANTS: THEIR VALUE, PROPAGATION, AND MANAGEMENT—W. L. McAtee—*Collegiate Press*, 141 p., \$1.50. Probably no one in this country (at least) knows more about what wildfowl like to eat than Mr. McAtee. In making his knowledge available in this convenient and practical form he has performed a real service to all workers in the fields of wildlife management, soil conservation, forestry, and applied biology generally.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Horticulture

THE VEGETABLE GROWING BUSINESS—Ralph L. Watts and Gilbert Searle Watts—*Orange Judd*, 549 p., illus., \$3.50. Good selection of subject matter and careful economy of words have enabled the authors to pack material that might have filled a cyclopedia between the covers of an average-sized book. It will serve equally well as a text for a thorough-going course in horticulture or as a one-volume reference library for the practical gardener.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Geology

MIOCENE STRATIGRAPHY OF CALIFORNIA—Robert M. Kleinpell—*Amer. Assn. of Petroleum Geologists*, 450 p., 22 plates, \$5. A thorough-going detailed study of one of the most important horizons of one of the most important geological areas in this country, whether regarded from the viewpoint of economic or "straight" geology. A book for professionals.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Psychology

HOW TO ENJOY ILL HEALTH—Cecelia L. Schulz—*Whittlesey*, 194 p., \$1.75. Humorous, entertaining and practical is this book by a registered nurse with many years of experience on which to draw for her advice. She tells patients and relatives many things to do and not to do which will make a siege of illness less of an ordeal, gives advice to the amateur home nurse, and provides a couple of hours of entertainment for dull days in bed.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Safety

LET THEM LIVE—Stewart H. Holbrook—*Macmillan*, 178 p., \$1.50. It is not often that a book with a moral is as exciting and absorbing as this one. The author paints a vivid picture of catastrophic industrial accidents, and describes the struggle of accident prevention and safety workers down to and including the fight to cut the automobile accident toll.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Mathematics

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY OF NUMBERS—G. H. Hardy and E. M. Wright—*Oxford Univ.*, 403 p., \$8. British text designed primarily for mathematicians and which, it is claimed, should be intelligible to a superior first-year student in mathematics. By American standards it is a book for graduate school use and for reference use in university libraries.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS AND SOLUTIONS—J. I. Crabtree and G. E. Matthews—*Amer. Photo. Pub.*, 360 p., \$4. Two Eastman Kodak experts discuss the chemistry of photographic solutions. Operation techniques, the method of manufacture and use are described in the book, which will be of interest to amateur photographers as well as the professionals.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939

Home Economics—Chemistry

HANDBOOK OF FOOD MANUFACTURE—F. Fiene and Saul Blumenthal—*Chem. Pub. Co. of N. Y.*, 603 p., \$6. Recipes and formulas for the professional food manufacturer, including all types of foods, syrups, flavors and other products of the food trade. Strictly a volume for the wholesale producer of prepared food-stuffs.

Science News Letter, February 11, 1939