

# • First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews

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**Meteorology**

**PHYSICAL METEOROLOGY**—John G. Albright—*Prentice-Hall*, 302 p., \$5.35. The rapid growth of commercial aviation has lent new emphasis to better weather forecasting and an understanding of its basic phenomena. In publishing the material of his course in meteorology at Case School of Applied Science, Prof. Albright has given the reader an excellent starting point for a comprehension of this subject.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Home Economics**

**INDEX TO THE LITERATURE OF FOOD INVESTIGATION**—Agnes Elisabeth Glenie, comp.—*British Library of Information*, 269 p., \$1.35.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Chemistry**

**PHOTOCHEMISTRY AND THE MECHANISM OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS**—Gerhard K. Rollefson and Milton Burton—*Prentice-Hall*, 445 p., \$5.75. How closely physics and chemistry are now becoming linked is aptly illustrated by this new text explaining the chemical reactions which occur when radiation strikes material matter, either in the gaseous, liquid or solid state. A good book in its field.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Mathematics**

**NUMBER, THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE**, 3d ed.—Tobias Dantzig—*Macmillan*, 320 p., \$3. Here is a new edition of what has become a most popular book for the intelligent layman. Twenty-six short essays on a variety of topics in mathematics are included as well as some of the material from the earlier edition, in a special appendix. Interesting matters in the history of mathematics and its philosophical implications are included.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Mineralogy**

**DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE NEW MINERALS, 1892-1938**—George Letchworth English, comp.—*McGraw-Hill*, 258 p., \$3. A technical book for mineralogists which contains all the new mineral names not mentioned in Dana's System of Mineralogy.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Anthropology**

**ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS**—Bureau of American Ethnology—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 305 p., 32 pl., 60c. Bulletin 123. Six more manuscripts, including a photographic report, in one of the newer series of Smithsonian Institution publications. It includes Dr. Vincenzo Pe-

trullo's study of Yaruro Indians in Venezuela; Dr. Gann's excavation at a Mayan site; and an edited translation by Ronald Ives of Sedelmayr's *Relacion of 1746*, one of the less familiar valuable accounts of Southwest exploration.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Hygiene**

**PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**, 5th ed.—C. E. Turner—*Mosby*, 652 p., \$3. This latest edition of Prof. Turner's well-known and widely used text for college and university students has been revised to include new knowledge of the subject and has been printed on eye-toned paper.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***History**

**AMERICANS**—Emil Jordan—*Norton*, 459 p., \$3.50. Contains chapters on the racial and civilizing elements that have made America of the past and present. From the Incas, Mound Builders, and other prehistoric cultures, the panorama moves forward to separate chapters on the European, Asiatic, and African factors in the New World of today.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***History**

**LA SALLE: Explorer of Our Midland Empire**—Flora Warren Seymour—*Appleton-Century*, 236 p., \$2. A real adventure tale for boys, presented in sizeable print and accompanied by a sketch map, to aid in following La Salle's empire-building efforts in the American wilderness.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Language**

**HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES**—Edited by Franz Boas—*Augustin*, 707 p., \$5. Five "illustrative sketches" of Tonkawa, Quileute, Yuchi, Zuni, and Coeur d'Alene languages, describing the grammar of each in full detail. Since the same procedure is followed in analyzing each language, the volume offers ready reference in comparing traits of other languages.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***History**

**A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD**—Charles E. Smith and Paul G. Moorhead—*Appleton-Century*, 653 p., \$3.75. A basic text for college courses, in which the bulk of the space is devoted to Greeks and Romans and their experiences and problems. The record is carried forward to the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Geography**

**DEATH VALLEY**—Federal Writers' Project—*Houghton-Mifflin*, 75 p., illus., map, \$1. Despite its name, there is great beauty in Death Valley, which is brought out in this new book of the American Guide Series by means of many fine pictures, short but informative text sections, and outline itineraries of trips. It is a little startling, among all the illustrations of barren soil and bare rock, to come upon others showing a golf course and a bathing party basking beside the water in the checkered shade of palms.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Geography**

**A GUIDE IN THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHY**—Catherine L. Braun—*Prentice-Hall*, 138 p., \$1.25. A manual for students to use in connection with various reference texts to which they may have access. It is intended to "provide for a clearer conception of the meaning of geography."

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Entomology**

**THE EMBRYOLOGY OF FLEAS**—Edward L. Kessel—*Smithsonian Institution*, 78 p., 12 pl., 45c. This is a brochure of the kind that is always regarded with levity by laymen but with gravity by scientists, for it really is a publication of serious importance both to entomologists and to students of animal phylogenies.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Biology**

**A LABORATORY INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL ECOLOGY AND TAXONOMY**—Orlando Park, W. C. Allee and V. E. Shelford—*Univ. of Chicago*, 272 p., \$2. This handy book, loose-leafed on flat rings, outlines the kind of course in biology that the average beginning student in college really craves but which he seldom gets.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939***Bibliography**

**PERIODICALS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED LIBRARIES**, 7th ed.—Frank K. Walter—*Amer. Lib. Assoc.*, 93 p., 75c. A completely rewritten edition of "Periodicals for the Small Library", last issued in 1932. There is an annotated list of 214 titles (including the *Science News Letter*), classified lists and discussions of special groups, and a great deal of valuable general information about ordering, handling and binding periodicals.

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## Geography

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE NORTHWEST—Martelle Trager—*Dodd, Mead*, 216 p., illus., \$2.50. A trip through the National Parks of the Northwest, beginning with Yellowstone, going out to Olympic by way of Glacier, and starting eastward again through Rocky Mountain. The story is told in a chatty, easy narrative style as the summer vacation-wheels of a typical American family, seen through the eyes of the mother and therefore naturally including much of what the children saw and said and did. Mrs. Trager is the wife of the Chief Naturalist of the U. S. National Park Service, so has had ample opportunity to amass facts and develop enthusiasms.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Psychology

LIFE WITHOUT FEAR—Peter Fletcher—*Dutton*, 111 p., \$1. The author believes that fear is a religious problem.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Engineering

STEAM CONQUERS THE ATLANTIC—David Budlong Tyler—*Appleton-Century*, 425 p., \$5. An authoritative, well-documented and readable history of the rise of the steamboat as a transport across oceans.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Zoology

THE RECENT MAMMALS OF IDAHO—William B. Davis—*Caxton*, 400 p., \$5. An exceedingly useful manual, covering the fauna of a region hitherto not adequately treated. The distribution maps constitute an especially valuable feature.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Genetics

THE EVOLUTION OF GENETIC SYSTEMS—C. D. Darlington—*Cambridge (Macmillan)*, 149 p., \$2.75. Research workers and advanced students in genetics should find this a highly useful book for it is a compact summary of present knowledge of the mechanics of chromosome and genic behavior.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Safety

SPORTSMANLIKE DRIVING—*American Automobile Assoc.*, 106 p., \$2.50. In correlating its activities into the general movement to reduce traffic fatalities the AAA has prepared what is essentially a textbook for high school students on how to drive and what to know about driving. As younger potential drivers study the facts in this valuable book, one can be sure that the death toll on

the highways will continue to decline. It should be required reading for adult drivers also.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Engineering

GUIDEPOSTS OF THE SEA—Irving Conklin—*Macmillan*, 94 p., \$2. A photographic summary, with considerable text, of the story of the U. S. Lighthouse Service and of the many aids to sea navigation in its charges: lighthouses, lightships, unattended lights, buoys and other aids, as well as a description of the light keeper's life.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Mineralogy

AMERICAN GEM CABOCHONS—William C. McKinley—*Lighner*, 77 p., illus., \$1.65. Colored plates of American semi-precious stones, cut and polished without facets, with brief descriptions. An especially valuable feature is a summary tabulation of color, hardness and other properties, which is also an index to the plates.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Geology

ASH FORMATIONS OF THE ISLAND HAWAII—Chester K. Wentworth—*Hawaiian Volcano Research Assn.*, 183 p., plates, \$3. (Third Special Report of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory). A monograph of one phase of the formation of one of the most important volcanic islands in the world. This work will be welcomed by volcanologists and by geologists generally.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Zoology

A FAMILY TO RAISE—Irmengarde Eberle—*Holiday House*, 93 p., \$2. Nice pictures; but the author sticks to the outmoded trick of having her birds and beasts talk English.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Economics—Chemistry

THE ECONOMICS OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES—Edward H. Hempel—*Wiley*, 259 p., \$3. No book, of course, can keep up with the current progress of the economics common to American chemical industries. However, no trade magazine—which may give the current advances—can hope to assemble in one place the background of factual material which makes the study of the current situation possible. Columbia University's Dr. Hempel assembled this valuable material in the present book.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Biography

ALBERT EINSTEIN, MAKER OF UNIVERSES—Haig Gordon Garbedian—*Funk & Wagnalls*, 338 p., \$3.75. Biographies of Einstein have been many, but few of them contain such a wealth of anecdotal material.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Physics

PHYSICAL SCIENCE IN MODERN LIFE—E. G. Richardson—*Van Nostrand*, 256 p., \$3. In refreshing contrast to the flood of popular books on physics which smash and resmash atoms through countless pages of atomic structure, artificial radioactivity and transmutation, comes this book from England which concerns itself with physics as it relates to things nearer human experience. If you wonder how an airplane can fly, what constitutes quicksand, what limits the clarity of a television screen, then you will find your answer here along with hundreds of other facts outside the domain of nuclear physics.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Mathematics

THE CONCEPTS OF THE CALCULUS—Carl B. Boyer—*Columbia Univ. Press*, 346 p., \$3.75. Here is a history of calculus which shows the origins of this most powerful branch of mathematics with emphasis on the development of the basic concepts from antiquity until the time when they became incorporated into the precise form of modern methods.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Botany

FLORA OF RIVERSIDE AND VICINITY—Rosamond A. Fawcett—*The Junior College, Riverside, Calif.*, 172 p., 50c. The flowering plants of one California region carefully "keyed out," with several pages of line illustrations to make terms comprehensible to beginners, and a brief glossary.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*

## Chemistry

COLLOIDAL PHENOMENA: An Introduction to the Science of Colloids—Ernst A. Hauser—*McGraw-Hill*, 294 p., \$3. Prof. Hauser offers the material of his course in colloid chemistry and physics, as given at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with emphasis first on the experimental phenomena and with the mathematical proof in a separate appendix. Footnotes from the literature and an abundant index make the volume one of great reference value also.

*Science News Letter, June 3, 1939*