

# • First Glances at New Books

Additional Reviews  
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## Medicine

**THE STORY OF SURGERY**—Harvey Graham—*Doubleday, Doran*, 425 p., \$3.75. Surgery will become an unnecessary art, except for accidents and war, the greatest of all accidents. This is the prediction of a Harley Street (London) surgeon who writes under a pseudonym of the long history of surgery. His conclusion: "Surgery deals with the failures of medicine. One day complete success will be recorded by the physicians, and at that moment the surgeon must needs drop his scalpel."

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Architecture

**CAMPS AND COTTAGES, How to Build Them Yourself**—Charles D. White—*Crowell*, 235 p., \$2. You'll want to get your hammer, nails and saw and begin work immediately. This is a practical book because an architect and his son built a camp themselves.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Meteorology

**THE WEEKLY PERIOD IN WASHINGTON PRECIPITATION**—C. G. Abbot and N. M. McGandlish—*Smithsonian Inst.*, 4 p., 5c. (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 98, No. 21). See *SNL*, Aug. 26.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Mineralogy

**THE HELT TOWNSHIP (INDIANA) METEORITE**—Stuart H. Perry—*Smithsonian Institution*, 7 p., 9 pl., 25c.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Entomology—Medicine

**MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MAN AND ANIMALS** (3d. ed.)—William B. Herms—*Macmillan*, 582 p., \$5.50. This new edition takes full advantage of the great strides that have been taken in the study of insect vectors in the half-dozen years that have passed since the appearance of the second edition. Public health aspects receive especial attention.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Genetics

**YOU AND HEREDITY**—Amram Scheinfeld—*Stokes*, 434 p., \$3. A highly readable book, written by a layman with the cooperation of many scientists. If you wonder why you look like Great-Aunt Sarah or whether it is safe for cousins to marry or what eugenics and sterilization of the unfit are all about, or whether your baby will inherit his father's keen

mind, you will want to read this book. Publication was delayed until September and the price reduced to \$3 when it was selected by the Book of the Month Club.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## General Science

**CONQUESTS OF SCIENCE**—Ray Compton and Charles H. Nettels, eds.—*Harcourt, Brace*, 378 p., Text ed., \$1.20; Trade ed., \$1.75. This book contains a collection of essays by various well-known scientists which describe in general the broad outlines of science in its various fields. Of the value of the book, the editor says: "(1) Each selection is good science in that it is authentic material written by a recognized science writer. (2) Each chapter is written in an interesting manner, and (3) There is no section too difficult for the beginning student."

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Photography

**THE TECHNIQUE OF PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**—Paul L. Anderson—*Lippincott*, 403 p., \$3.50. This book brings up to date the information in Mr. Anderson's older book *Pictorial Photography: Its Principles and Practice*. It is a needed handbook for pictorial photographers.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Geography—Economics

**LAND OF THE SOVIETS: A Handbook of the U. S. S. R.**—Nicholas Mikhailov, translated by Nathalie Rothstein—*Lee Furman*, 351 p., \$2.50. A geographic account of present-day Soviet republics, including much about resources and industrial trends, and details of the Third Five-Year Plan, started in 1938. The volume is supplied with a good index, photographs, and maps.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Economics

**HOW WE GET OUR FOOD**—Ethel K. Howard—*Harcourt, Brace*, 111 p., \$1.25. An attractively illustrated science reader, in agriculture and its dependent industries, for the lower grades.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Genetics

**AN INTRODUCTION TO GENETICS**—A. H. Sturtevant and G. W. Beadle—*Saunders*, 391 p., \$3.25. A new textbook in genetics, with a new approach. The assumption is made that the student is already sufficiently grounded in general biology, and the start is therefore made at once with chromosomes: a considerable saving in time.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Geography

**ICELAND, The First American Republic**—Vilhjalmur Stefansson—*Doubleday, Doran*, 275 p., \$3.50. Dr. Stefansson says that when Iceland was discovered the New World was discovered. Iceland became the first republic in the Western Hemisphere. With such distinctions accorded it, the island under Dr. Stefansson's skillful authorship gains the reader's attention and holds it. The greater part of the book is devoted to Iceland today, and even includes practical advice and information for tourists adventurous enough to roam off the beaten track.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Photography

**THE AMERICAN ANNUAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY** (Vol. 54)—Frank R. Fraprie and Franklin I. Jordan, editors—*American Photographic Pub. Co.*, 322 p., paper \$1.50, cloth \$2.25. In addition to the generous collection of very beautiful photographs, this annual contains several authoritative articles of technical interest and the Who's Who in Pictorial Photography.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## History

**GERMANS IN THE CAMEROONS, 1884-1914**—Harry R. Rudin—*Yale Univ. Press*, 456 p., map, \$4. A study of imperialism in a single region of the modern world. To make this survey, Mr. Rudin gave ten years to research of source materials, life among natives in the Cameroons, and talks with former German officials of the colony. His verdict is that evils in German colonial administration "are neither greater than nor different from those existing in any other colonial system" and that Germany there deserves credit for "a record of unusual achievements."

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Sociology

**RACE RELATIONS AND THE RACE PROBLEM**—Edgar T. Thompson, ed.—*Duke Univ. Press*, 338 p., \$3.50. Discussion and facts by eleven sociologists on the relationships between white and Negro races, particularly in the South. The effect of the Negro on the white man is an angle believed neglected. The volume, which the editor hopes will not be merely another book on the Negro, analyzes such matters as racial competition for land, labor problems, and patterns of race conflict.

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## Physics

**ATOMS IN ACTION**—George Russell Harrison—*Morrow*, 370 p., \$3.50. The world of creative physics is described vividly and expertly by the director of the research laboratory of experimental physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and authority on spectroscopy. The American Institute of Physics for several years has wanted a book that would present the accomplishments of physics as effectively as Slosson's classic "Creative Chemistry." This book is nominated. Energy, farming, sound, glass, light, electrons, spectrograms, radium, lenses, television, photography, music, weather, aviation and the future mingle in the 16 interesting chapters.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Archaeology

**ETRUSCAN PERUGIA**—Chandler Shaw—*Johns Hopkins Press*, 102 p., 16 pl., \$2.75. Political history and the course of civilization in a leading Etruscan city-state are traced in this monograph. Archaeological evidence provides most of the material for reconstructing the cultural picture.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Botany

**THE ANDEAN SPECIES OF PILEA**—Ellsworth P. Killip—*Govt. Print Off.*, 65 p., 15c. (Contributions from the U. S. Nat'l Herbarium, Vol. 26, pt. 10)

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Psychology

**CALIFORNIA SHORT FORM TEST OF MENTAL MATURITY**; Preprimary Series (Kgn-Ent. 1), Primary Series (Grs. 1-3), Elementary Series (Grs. 4-8), Intermediate Series (Grs. 7-10), and Advanced Series (Grs. 9-Adult)—Elizabeth T. Sullivan, Willis W. Clark and Ernest W. Tieg—*California Test Bureau*, 3636 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., 75c per 25 tests.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Bibliography—Medicine

**JOHN HOWARD (1726-1790) HOSPITAL AND PRISON REFORMER: A BIBLIOGRAPHY**—Leona Baumgartner—*Johns Hopkins Press*, 79 p., \$1.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Ethnology—Economics

**THE ESKIMO AND HIS REINDEER IN ALASKA**—Clarence L. Andrews—*Caxton*, 240 p., \$3.50. What it is like to be an Eskimo, and particularly what the reindeer situation is up in Alaska, are told

in this informal, homely book by a man who has lived and worked among these people. He tells of "chaos" which business interests wrought when white men entered the native reindeer industry, and present efforts of the Government to protect the natives' interests.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Economics

**REVIEW OF WORLD TRADE, 1938—League of Nations—Columbia Univ. Press**, 85 p., 60c.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Engineering

**THE STOREHOUSE OF CIVILIZATION**—C. C. Furnas—*Teachers College, Columbia Univ.*, 562 p., \$3.25. The use and development of metals, non-metals, energy supplies, and chemical products are told in this volume by Yale's writing chemical engineer. Intended for broadening the background of teachers, who will read it with pleasure, the book will attract and inform many others.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Archaeology

**MODIFIED BASKET MAKER SITES, ACKMEN-LOWRY AREA, SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO, 1938**—Paul S. Martin—*Field Museum of Natural History*, 499 p., \$3. Report on excavation of two sites which offer "a fair sample" of typical Basket Maker culture in this region. The report, says Dr. Martin, finishes Field Museum's work in the area, for cultures have now been traced there from 700 A.D. to the Great Pueblo period, about 1150.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Education

**THE EFFECT OF VARIED AMOUNTS OF PHONETIC TRAINING ON PRIMARY READING**—Donald C. Agnew—50 p., \$1.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Aeronautics

**ABC OF AVIATION (Rev. and Enl.)**—Victor W. Page—*Henley*, 418 p., \$2.50.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Archaeology

**LA TECHNIQUE DES FOUILLES**—Office International des Musées—*Institut International de Coopération Intellectuelle*, 232 p., \$2.25 (Moussion, Vol. 45-46) This entire issue of the quarterly *Moussion* is devoted to a manual in French on the technique of archaeological excavation. The treatise extends beyond actual digging to include problems of international documentation and educational values of excavation sites.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Economics

**THE STRUCTURE OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, Part I. Basic Characteristics—National Resources Com.—Govt. Print. Off.**, 396 p., \$1. A detailed and exhaustive examination of the economic structure of the country in relation to national resources. The committee especially deplores the tremendous waste of manpower (estimated at 200 billion dollars) represented by unemployment during the depression period.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Music—Ethnology

**NOOTKA AND QUILEUTE MUSIC**—Frances Densmore—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 358 p., 50c. Another of Miss Densmore's remarkably comprehensive studies of America's Indians, from the standpoint of the role music plays in their lives. The manner of living and the songs of Northwest Coast Indians—sturdy fighters, whalers, lavish givers at potlatch festivities—are here recorded.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Archaeology

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA, The Tairona Culture. Part II, Section 2, Objects of Pottery**—J. Alden Mason—*Field Museum of Natural History*, 418 p., \$2.50. Illustrated by plates and drawings, this section of the report is restricted to factual description of clay objects, mainly those collected by Dr. Mason and now in Field Museum. Observations and conclusions are reserved for a later publication.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## History

**THE CONQUEST OF A CONTINENT**—Chase S. Osborn and Stella Brunt Osborn—*Science Press*, 190 p., \$3. The boundary line that divides the United States from Canada is the subject of this book, behind the somewhat obscure title. The authors rightly regard the boundary as one of the world's wonders. With this interest-arousing introduction, they proceed to a factual presentation of the historic arguments, negotiations, and agreements in the "task for Titans."

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*

## Political Science

**CLIPPERS AND CONSULS**—Eldon Griffin—*Edwards Bros., Obtainable from Dale S. King, Southwestern Monuments Association, Coolidge, Arizona*, 533 p., \$10. American consular and commercial relations with Eastern Asia, 1845-1860. Lithoprinted.

*Science News Letter, September 30, 1939*