

FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEARBOOK OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EDUCATION, 1928—*Public School Pub. Co.* (\$1.75). Part I of this useful annual is devoted this year to "Nature and Nurture: Their Influence Upon Intelligence." An investigation by Dr. Frank N. Freeman and five associates at the University of Chicago reported in considerable detail deals a body blow to the popular belief that intelligence is fixed by inheritance and determined at birth. Several hundred children placed in foster homes were tested "before and after" for this study. Children placed in better homes improved considerably more than children in poorer homes. Children adopted very young gained more in their intelligence ratings than those adopted later. Other equally interesting tests confirm the general thesis that homes as well as hereditary factors are important factors in the development of intelligence.

Pedagogy
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE—G. Stanley Shoup—*U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce* (\$10). In this new trade information bulletin is contained a complete summary of what the British Government is doing to unite the dominions and colonies with the home government by radio. In considerable detail is related the efforts to form an imperial radio system, beginning in 1910, and which is now reaching culmination with beam transmission.

Radio
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

AN OUTLINE OF PHYSICS—Albert Edward Caswell—*Macmillan*. A well-written college physics text of the conventional pattern, and recent enough to include the quantum theory, relativity, Miller's recent repetitions of the Michelson-Morley experiment, and modern views of atomic structure.

Physics
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

EAT, DRINK AND BE HEALTHY—Clarence W. Lieb—*John Day* (\$1.50). Considering the health fads and "eat more" advertising campaigns that sweep over the country, this rational statement of dietetic needs based on the existing medical knowledge of nutrition should fill a very definite place.

Hygiene
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

PSYCHOLOGY OF INFANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD—Ada Hart Arlitt—*McGraw-Hill* (\$2). The discovery that the pre-school child is important psychologically is beginning to yield its crop of books for all manner of persons concerned with children. This volume would be somewhat over the head of the average mother who has yet to add conditioned reflexes and stimuli to her vocabulary. Its style and content are rather addressed to students, teachers, doctors perhaps, and others who may specialize in the science of the pre-school child. Current knowledge of the subject is very completely gathered into the book, and there is even enough physiological psychology to explain briefly such matters as sensations and glandular processes of young human beings.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

MORTON PRINCE, AND ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY—W. S. Taylor—*Appleton* (\$1.75). The subject of this study stands out as an American psychologist who pioneered in the field of abnormal psychology and blazed important trails. But his writings are scattered and voluminous, and apparently Dr. Prince himself has never cared to reduce his theories and findings to a compact little book such as this. Dr. Taylor has accomplished a difficult task, and not the least valuable chapter of the book is the conclusion, in which the author emerges from his detached place as an interpreter and sums up the defects and the significance of Dr. Prince's work.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

MUSIC—A SCIENCE AND AN ART—John Redfield—*Knopf* (\$2.50). Those who cultivate the art of music rarely pay any attention to music as a science, and *vice versa*. Both parties should read this book. The author, a Columbia lecturer on the physics of music, not only gives a clear survey of the fundamentals of the subject, but he advocates radical innovations in musical notation and instrumentation. He condemns the tempered piano and organ, and urges just intonation. He proposes new harmonic systems and suggests new orchestral instruments, even the improvement of the sacred violin.

Psychology
Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928

NATURE RAMBLINGS

BY FRANK THONE

Natural History



Moon's Darling

Walking in the thick woods, you may find a fleck of May moonlight clinging to the rough bark of a tree, though the day be at high noon. If you will examine it closely, without venturing to touch it or even breathe on it, you will discover that it is a Luna moth, queen of all the elfin life that flies at night.

Her wings are pearly white, turning back into a pair of closely forked swallow-tails. Each forewing bears a darker eyespot, connected by a line to the brown front border, and the feathery antennae are brown likewise. Luna is very probably fast asleep, for she flies only at night, and by day only the luckiest of searchers is likely to discover her.

One might go on and picture this queen of the midnight revels sipping a delirious nectar out of the cups of flowers, but from an honest natural-history standpoint it wouldn't be so. Luna is a lovely dancer, but an austere one. She neither eats nor drinks; unlike most other moths she has no mouthparts fitted for feeding.

It may well be asked, where then does she get the strength for her ecstasy of flight, and the material for the numerous progeny of eggs she leaves on an oakleaf before she dies? Luna lives on stored-up energy. During the previous season, when she was a fat green caterpillar, she accumulated sufficient body-tissues to last her through the trying period of pupation during the winter, to grow her glorious wings, and to give her, when spring came, the strength to use them and to carry through the activities of adult mothhood, without bite or sup after the time she spun herself into her silken cocoon.

Science News-Letter, June 16, 1928