

## FIRST GLANCES AT NEW BOOKS

CONDUCTION OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH GASES—Sir J. J. Thomson and G. P. Thomson—*Macmillan* (\$8.50). This book, by one of the greatest of English physicists and his son, represents the partial culmination of a work which began before the war. The first edition dates to 1903, the second to 1906. The third was begun some fifteen years ago, and now the first volume, dealing with general properties of ions, and ionisation by heat and light, has just appeared. So extensive has the subject grown that the single volumes of the first and second editions are no longer adequate. Naturally a work by two such eminent authorities is above criticism in the ordinary sense—it is one of those books that anyone at all interested in the subject will have to own.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

THE PAGEANT OF THE STARS—Willem J. Luyten—*Doubleday, Doran* (\$2.50). A Harvard astronomer, now in South Africa at the Bloemfontein station, is the author of this excellent popular work on astronomy. The author has a particularly lucid style, as shown, for instance, in his account of the stellar encounter that produced the solar system. As an astronomer who has achieved prominence, he is entirely accurate, yet he does not let this fact interfere with the clarity and ease of the presentation. In short, it is a book which we highly recommend.

*Astronomy*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

TELEVISION—H. H. Sheldon and E. N. Grisewood—*Van Nostrand* (\$2.25). All the most important methods of visual radio, which includes still picture transmission, radio-movies and television, are here discussed and explained. Methods of the Westinghouse Co., the A. T. & T. Co., C. Francis Jenkins, J. F. Baird, E. F. W. Alexanderson and others are included.

*Television*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

THE A B C OF PHYSICS—Jay L. B. Taylor—*Vanguard* (50c). A little, and inexpensive, primer of physical science that covers its more important aspects.

*Physics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

FIELD BOOK OF COMMON ROCKS AND MINERALS—Frederic Brewster Loomis—*Putnam's* (\$3.50). This is the fourth impression of a book in the publisher's nature field books. The clear descriptions, the numerous illustrations, many in color, all make the book an excellent one to use as an aid to identify the minerals one meets with in travelling about the country.

*Mineralogy*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

LABORATORY INVESTIGATION OF ORES—Ernest E. Fairbanks—*McGraw-Hill* (\$3.50). Chemists and assayers are the conventional evaluators of the riches within the rocks. Microscope, X-ray, and the other tools of the metallographer are equally helpful to the economic geologist. This symposium brings together the best practice and the latest knowledge of this field.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC ATLAS OF PENNSYLVANIA: No. 5, NEWCASTLE QUADRANGLE, F. W. DEWOLF; No. 27, PITTSBURGH QUADRANGLE, Meredith E. Johnson—*Division of Documents, Harrisburg, Pa.* (\$1 each). The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has set the pace for other states in this topographic and geologic atlas which will, eventually, cover the entire state. The various parts contain sets of maps of the quadrangle showing not only the topographical features but the geology, natural resources, and similar details of the region. The several hundred pages of text in each fully supplement these maps.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

FIVE HUNDRED TESTS OF VARIOUS COALS IN HOUSE-HEATING BOILERS—P. Nicholls, S. B. Flagg, and C. E. Augustine—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (15c). The tables of this Bureau of Mines technical report contain data on various kinds of coal which would result in financial saving to the careful householders if they would take the pains to study them.

*Engineering*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

THE MIDDLEMAN—J. R. Sprague—*Morrow* (\$2.) An easy, narrative style makes the reader forget that this is, basically, a book on an important phase of economics.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

DEVILS, DRUGS AND DOCTORS—Howard W. Haggard—*Harpers* (\$5). The unusual arrangement of material adds considerably to the pleasure in reading this entertaining book, which is a history of medicine, although it bears scant resemblance to a formal history. The story, written for the layman, is told largely through colorful incidents. The contents are arranged according to subject matter rather than in chronological order. The illustrations, of which there are 150, are particularly fine, including many choice old woodcuts of Holbein and some caricatures of Rowlandson and Hogarth.

*Medical History*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

HANDBOOK OF HISTOLOGY—A. McL. Watson—*Wood* (\$3.75). A very concise textbook of histology (the study of the anatomy of the tissues of the body) for medical students, with all original illustrations. The book should be valuable to students for reference and also to laboratory technicians without medical school education who would appreciate a brief explanation of the tissues they help to prepare for examination.

*Histology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

PSYCHIATRY IN INDUSTRY—V. V. Anderson—*Harper* (\$4). Why men and women do poor work, why they are dissatisfied, nervous, or worried, these problems have been studied by Dr. Anderson through long experience as consultant in a large department store. His book tells about the prevalence of such conditions, and how the psychiatrist goes about the task of placing the right person in the right job and of aiding employees to attain the best possible degree of efficiency and contentment.

*Psychiatry*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

LIST OF THE BOOKS, BULLETINS, JOURNAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND PATENTS BY MEMBERS OF MELLON INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1928—*Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh*. This publication lists 1 book, 14 bulletins, 15 research reports, 104 other scientific and technical papers, and 25 United States patents, and will be sent free to any chemists, librarians or teachers who ask for it.

*Bibliography*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

## First Glances at New Books—*Continued*

**THE HUMAN MECHANISM**—Theodore Hough, William T. Sedgwick and J. A. Waddell—*Ginn* (\$3). The book is designed for students. As a result, the first part, on physiology, is too technical for most laymen. However, Part II on hygiene and sanitation contains sound, sane advice with much valuable information on matters of both public and private health, and can be highly recommended to all. The book is clearly illustrated. Dr. Waddell, a former professor at the University of Virginia, Department of Medicine, and former epidemiologist of the Virginia State Board of Health, has edited this second revision.

*Physiology—Hygiene*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**PROGRESSIVE RELAXATION**—Edmund Jacobson—*University of Chicago Press* (\$5). Rest, which is becoming increasingly popular in the treatment of various diseases, fails in its therapeutic purpose if it does not embody complete relaxation. Dr. Jacobson believes. His book discusses relaxation in its various stages and in physical and psychological aspects, and gives directions for achieving it. Intended primarily for physicians, parts of it are sufficiently non-technical for the intelligent patient to read. Explanatory pictures and a copious bibliography enhance the value of the book, which is one of the University of Chicago monographs in medicine.

*Medicine—Psychology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**THE SCHOOL AND THE WORKING CHILD**—Mary A. Clapp and Mabel A. Strong—*Massachusetts Child Labor Committee* (\$1). Social workers, educators and the like will find much of interest in this discussion of the Massachusetts laws governing the school child at work, their enforcement and interpretation.

*Education*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**TEACHING HEALTH IN FARGO**—Maud A. Brown—*Commonwealth Fund* (\$1.50). Miss Brown, who was director of health education during the Commonwealth Fund's health demonstration activities in Fargo, N. D., gives a detailed account of her methods in teaching health as part of the demonstration. The methods are still in use in the schools, although the Commonwealth Fund's demonstration has been concluded.

*Education*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**THE A B C OF CHEMISTRY**—Newell R. Tripp—*Vanguard Press* (50c). If one wishes to know what chemistry is about, this is a good book to read. It is a stepping-stone to more detailed treatises.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**LIFE OF LAVOISIER**—Mary Louise Foster—*Smith College* (\$1). Lavoisier's life is a part of the history of chemistry. There has been heretofore no detailed account in English of the life of this great man.

*Chemistry*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**FIX IT YOURSELF**—Arthur Wakeling—*Popular Science Publishing Co.* (\$1). When the business man about the house on Saturday afternoon or Sunday finds time hanging heavy on his hands he can consult this compendium and guide to keeping his home in repair.

*Home Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**AGRICULTURAL SURVEY OF EUROPE—FRANCE**—Louis G. Michael—*U. S. Government Printing Office* (25c). That all of France is not Paris is shown in this searching and important U. S. Department of Agriculture study of French agriculture.

*Agriculture*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**TUBERCULOSIS AND HOW TO COMBAT IT**—Francis M. Pottenger—*Mosby* (\$2). In simple language Dr. Pottenger explains tuberculosis and its treatment. The book is intended for patients and their families and should be most helpful to them and their physicians, for whose advice it is a supplement but not a substitute.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**THE FACTS OF MODERN MEDICINE**—Francis W. Palfrey—*Appleton* (\$5). This book tells you what you have always wanted to know about yourself: Just how you are built, how you function and what happens when you get sick. Dr. Palfrey has presented in delightfully readable style the knowledge of the modern physician. The layman who reads it will be much better able to cooperate with his physician in getting well and staying well, because he will understand the facts on which the physician's advice is based.

*Medicine*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**LIFT UP YOUR EYES**—*Ford Motor Company*, Dearborn, Mich. A beautiful portfolio composed of the seventeen full-page illustrated advertisements published in various magazines to awaken public interest in the opportunities of aviation traffic for goods and passengers.

*Aviation*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**AIRCRAFT YEAR BOOK 1929**—*Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America* (\$5.25). As the annual encyclopedia and directory of a fast growing science and industry, this book renews its usefulness for reference and inspiration.

*Aeronautics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY**—Owen Wheeler—*Pitman* (\$3.75). A sound and complete treatise on this most interesting aspect of photography. The new British method of making color snapshots with the aid of a tripack of novel design is explained in a supplement.

*Photography*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**GEOLOGIC STORY OF THE GENESEE VALLEY AND WESTERN NEW YORK**—Herman LeRoy Fairchild—*H. L. Fairchild* (\$2.50). The emeritus professor of geology at the University of Rochester believes that the people of his state should become acquainted with the rocks, water courses, prehistoric plants and animals, and other geologic features of their home territory. Since the book deals with the spectacular and much visited Niagara region, is attractively written, and well illustrated, it should appeal to a wider public than that of New York.

*Geology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**IT'S NOT OUR FAULT**—Alfred Lawrence Hall-Quest—*Liveright* (\$2.50). A survey of evil, past views and present conditions. The author comes to the conclusion finally that "it is not our individual fault, but it is our fault as members of society", which seems to be drawing the line rather finely.

*Sociology*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*

**INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS**—Fred R. Yoder—*Thomas Y. Crowell Company* (\$3). With farm relief and tariff on agricultural products now before Congress, this is not only a reference book but a timely publication.

*Economics*  
*Science News-Letter, June 1, 1929*