

# CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

## THE SCIENCES

### THIS PUZZLING PLANET.

By Edwin Tenney Brewster. The Bobbs-Merrill Company  
\$4 8¾ x 5¾; 328 pp. Indianapolis

Mr. Brewster starts off by rehearsing the history of geological theory, and exhibits the errors in the ideas entertained by the pioneers of the science. He then proceeds to set forth, in an admirably clear and simple manner, what is known and believed by the best authorities today. He ends with an account of the prevailing theories regarding the beginnings of the earth, and shows why the elder nebular hypothesis has given way to the planetesimal theory. His exposition is well ordered, his information is sound, and the illustrations that he presents really illustrate. His book has a brief but comprehensive and annotated bibliography, and a good index. Altogether, it is an excellent and valuable piece of work.

### HOW ANIMALS FIND THEIR WAY ABOUT.

By Etienne Rabaud. Harcourt, Brace & Company  
\$2.75 8½ x 5¼; 142 pp. New York

This little book disposes of many popular delusions regarding the special senses of the lower animals, and especially of birds and bees. M. Rabaud, who is professor of experimental biology at the University of Paris, shows that their feats of homing do not depend upon any faculty that higher animals do not possess, but are grounded upon the exercise of sight, hearing, smell and what may be called the sense of direction and distance. These senses are in man quite as much as they are in bees, ants and homing pigeons. They are simply used and developed in different ways. M. Rabaud is frankly skeptical about some of the alleged feats of pigeons. He shows that they are greatly exaggerated in the telling, and that in practise many pigeons get lost and perish. So do many bees. It is easy to fool bees by moving their hives, if only for a few yards. What brings them home is probably their recognition of a nearby tree, hill, house or other large mass. Let the hive be moved so that its relation to that mass is radically changed, and they are lost. The book is translated by I. H. Myers. It has a good bibliography and an adequate index.

### PSYCHOLOGY FOR THE WRITER.

By H. K. Nixon. Harper & Brothers  
\$2.50 8½ x 5¾; 330 pp. New York

Dr. Nixon gives a clear account of the gaudy and discordant notions which now entertain psychologists, and describes a great many of the puerile ex-

periments that the more curious among them have made upon college students and other laboratory animals, but when he comes to applying their theories and discoveries to the needs of the imaginative writer it turns out that he has relatively little to say. His book is full of odd stuff, but not much of it is of any value, either to writers or to other folk. He presents a twelve-page bibliography, and has gone to the trouble to prepare a good index.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

By Charles Singer. The Oxford University Press  
\$3 8 x 5¼; 368 pp. New York

This modest work does not challenge Dr. Fielding H. Garrison's standard history, but within its narrower field it is well planned and competently executed. It is aimed at the non-medical reader, and is clearly and simply written, without any more use of technical terms than is absolutely necessary. The illustrations are prudently chosen and there is a good index.

### THE CONQUEST OF LIFE.

By Serge Voronoff. Brentano's  
\$3.50 8½ x 5¾; 201 pp. New York

The optimism that Dr. Voronoff exhibits in this book will be shared by very few American surgeons. He speaks confidently of grafting monkey bones upon man, of transplanting ovaries from one woman to another, and of doing the same with whole joints. He even looks forward to transplanting kidneys. Of his *bona fides*, however, there can be no question. He presents a great many cases, with portraits of the patients, and insists that his operations are successful surgically and that their effects are salubrious, and not due to auto-suggestion.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### MOTHERHOOD IN BONDAGE.

By Margaret Sanger. Brentano's  
\$3 8½ x 5¾; 446 pp. New York

This is an appalling record of human misery. The text consists of specimens of the thousands of letters that Mrs. Sanger has received from poor women with too many children, begging her to tell them how to avoid having any more. Under the barbaric postal laws of the United States she is forbidden to send them the necessary information, and so they must suffer on. It is difficult to read the book without indignation. That so much unnecessary agony is permitted to go on in a country presumably civilized is

*Continued on page vi*



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