#### THE AMERICAN MERCURY

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### TRAVEL

NORTH TO THE ORIENT.

By Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Harcourt, Brace \$2.50 5½ x 8½; 255 pp. New York

Here is a genuinely good travel-book by a woman whose literary talent has apparently been completely overshadowed in the past by the aeronautical achievements of her famous husband. Mrs. Lindbergh, in describing the flight to the Orient in the summer of 1931, writes in a style that is at once individual, colorful, and deftly restrained - rich in humor and unfailing in its vivid realism. The book is mostly a record of personal impressions, intended to convey to the average groundling the magic of life in the air. Her account of the life at Baker Lake, of the Thanksgiving dinner at Point Barrow, of the forced landing on an Alaskan lake at night, of the Chinese floods - any one of these scenes alone would make the book worth the reading. But then there are so many more that could be mentioned: the description of her first experiences at the radio receiving set; the depressing picture she paints of Nome, with its decaying remnants of better days; the account of the accident on the Yangtze River; or - to go back to the beginning - the amusing description of their preparation for the flight. North to the Orient is as refreshing and as different a travel-book as has appeared in a good many months.

#### THE SAN LUCA.

This is a quiet narrative of considerable charm and genuine literary quality. It relates the unusual experiences of two artists, man and wife, who since 1923 have been traveling up and down the waterways of Europe in an old boat which they found abandoned in a canal, and which they rehabilitated for their own use. Most of the important nations of Europe are visited in the course of the book, and although the life, as

described, has not always been easy, one doubts 'if it has ever been dull. Mme. Ofaire writes with a sincerity which is singularly impressive, and her simple descriptions of canals and harbors and picturesque river-folk are certain to please the discriminating reader.

THE EMPIRE OF THE SNAKES.

By F. G. Carnochan and H. C. Adamson. Stokes \$2.50 5\\^{2}\text{x} \ 8\\^{2}\text{z} \ 290 pp. New York

Mr. Carnochan was sent to Africa by the Smithsonian-Chrysler Expedition for the purpose of obtaining specimens of fauna for the National Zoological Park in Washington. After exploring northwestern Tanganvika for several weeks he came by chance upon the secret Empire of the Snakes where he was kindly received by the Emperor himself and straightway enrolled as an honorary member of the strange colony. The Snake Men, as he was soon to learn, had acquired a monopoly on the catching and killing of serpents, and had furthermore developed an immunity to the deadliest venom. Cobras and mambas they picked up with their bare hands and snapped against the ground like whips. Indeed, as Mr. Carnochan does not hesitate to admit, these people had perfected a chemical means of counteracting neuro-toxins which would put many of our American and European scientists to shame. Mr. Adamson, the collaborator, is Assistant to the President of the American Museum of Natural History.

# S<u>CIENC</u>E

SCIENCE: A NEW OUTLINE.

By J. W. N. Sullivan. Thomas Nelson \$2.50 5½ x 8; 282 pp. New York

Here is a concise outline of modern science by one who possesses an unusual faculty for simple interpretation. The book opens with a (Continued on page vii)



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