



BOOKS IN GERMAN

●Woldemar von Falz-Fein. *Askania Nova*. Neudamm. Neumann. 1930.—The Falz-Fein family formed part of the German migration into southeastern Russia in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. *Askania Nova* deals with the development by that family of a zoological park for the rearing of steppe animals from all parts of the world. From a historical and family biographical beginning, the author develops his narrative entertainingly. The development of the project by Friedrich von Falz-Fein is described not only with feelings of family pride, but also with understanding of the problems presented by the undertaking, because his thorough familiarity with the steppe, both its flora and its fauna, allows him to present with considerable detail the botanical and zoological characteristics of the region as a background for the development of the park. *Askania Nova* did not survive the war and the story ends with the death of Friedrich von Falz-Fein in Germany in 1920, after the family had fled from Russia, leaving the park in ruins.—Stanley D. Dodge. University of Michigan.

●Ludwig Ferdinand Clauss. *Von Seele und Antlitz der Rassen und Völker*. Eine Einführung in die vergleichende Ausdrucksforschung. München. F. Lehmann. 1929. 10 and 13 marks.—The study of race and racial types, in both America and Europe, has, under the influence of the anthropometrists, taken latterly the form of the statistical analysis of metric determinations of the various traits which can be discerned on human beings, and in which the various types which are studied have been found to differ. This method of approach, however, for all the scientific validity of its exactitude, has been found not entirely satisfactory. For when the measurements have been taken and the statistical constants computed, there remain, at the end, merely the statistical constants. The intangibles which differentiate one people from another have not been captured, and there are those who feel that, in some manner or other, this should also be the aim of the student of racial differences.

For those who are on the alert for new paths toward the discernment and description of differences between human groups, this attempt of Dr. Clauss should prove stimulating. In its very tentativeness it is appealing, for a new method, when presented as a closed system, is endowed with an initial dogmatism that vitiates its usefulness to scholars who come on it at first. This presentation, an introductory statement, therefore, is in a manner which invites criticism and further probing.

The method employed is simple; it is the consideration of types more especially through the use of photographs and study of the historic past and "spirit" of a people than through the use of anthropometric measurements. The photographs, which are numerous and excellent, give point to the text, and one must admire the manner with which they are bound into the volume so that they can be utilised with the text. What differentiates peoples? The different ways in which they behave in similar situations, the differing reactions to those situations, and the manner in which these two are basally related. And on these differences the author builds his system.

One must confess that this is little enough, and the too ready acceptance of the "Nordic" school's classification of European types—for Clauss cites and follows the quite untenable classification of H. F. K. Günther and his group—causes one to wonder whether only in the utilisation of photographs, as introduced by Clauss, is not as far as the scholar can follow him. His long discussion of the mental attitudes of these "types,"—the identification of the "Nordic" as the type which accomplishes, as the doers of Europe, and of the central Europeans as docile, obedient, bearing silently the burdens of their masters, if we may cite examples—identifies him with a position that is no longer accepted in the most authoritative anthropological and psychological circles either of Europe or America.

One is grateful to Dr. Clauss for the vistas of method his book suggests. But one must

regret that he has applied his method to types which are more plausible than established, and await further use of his method and experimentation with racial differentiation on the basis of impressions before passing judgment.—*Melville J. Herskovits*. Northwestern University.

● *Friedrich Schnack*. *Im Wunderreich der Falter*. Mit 111 Bildern von Dr. Paul Denso. Berlin. Dietrich Reimer. 1930. 9 marks.—Schnack, the famous author of *Das Leben der Schmetterlinge*, the winner of the Lessing Prize and of the Prize of the "Deutsche Dichterkademie," has published another book on butterflies. It contains many new observations on these beautiful dreams of life. Schnack is so fortunate as to be the son-in-law of one of the greatest living students of butterflies, Dr. Paul Denso. The latter has contributed more than a hundred photographs that surpass any other illustrations of this kind, because they are taken in the open air, in the fields, in the woods, because, for the first time, they show the intimacy of butterfly life. It is a fact already acknowledged by the literary world that nobody can write a more poetic and at the same time more precise text than Friedrich Schnack.—*Felix Wittmer*. Washington and Jefferson College.

● *Wilhelm Ostwald*. *Die Pyramide der Wissenschaften*. Stuttgart und Berlin. 1929. 2.80 marks.—The author of the "energetic imperative" attempts in the popular form of a dialogue a new classification of the sciences. In the first part he discusses the well known efforts in this direction by Bacon, Comte, Herbert Spencer and some minor classifications. His own pyramid of sciences differs from the older forms especially in that it gives not only an idea of the more or less abstract nature of one science in comparison with the others, but it also shows the interdependence of the various sciences. It is not surprising, however, that a rationalistic scientist—who eventually goes so far as to condemn the natural languages as waste of energy—has no place in this pyramid for any retrospective and non-utilitarian studies.—*F. W. Kaufmann*. Smith College.

● *Technik und Praxis*. Heft 1. Wilhelm Tulke. *Morsen für Rundfunkhörer*. 1926. 30 pfennigs.—Heft 2. H. G. Burchard. *Funkverkehr auf kurzen Wellen*. 1926. 50 pfennigs.—Heft 4. Dr. Funk. *Die Mehrfachrohre und Selbstbau*. 1926. 60 pfennigs.—Heft 5. Dr. Funk. *Das*

Kristall-Detektorgerät. 1927. 60 pfennigs. Hamburg. Rufu-Verlagsgesellschaft.—These four condensed, pocket-sized pamphlets are made available at very moderate cost to the very beginner in radio enthusiasm. The first and fifth of the set require very little outlay in money and very little knowledge of the science of electricity and contain much information in regard to modern practice in code work with abbreviations, general rules to be observed in interpretation of messages, the internationally recognized calls for information and help, etc.

The second and fourth are of interest to the amateur a little more advanced, who can afford a greater outlay in money and who has much more technical knowledge and skill. The second pamphlet devotes about half of its space to abbreviations used in communication between code operators after explaining the advantages of the use of short wave radio and giving numerous hook-ups. Pamphlet number four details the use of various types of receiving tubes in conjunction and is of especial interest for the hook-ups shown using multi-electrode tubes. These latter tubes came into use in Europe quite a while before they were popular in the United States.

The material in all of these books is presented in a very attractive style and the explanations are for the amateur, who naturally would be the only one to make use of them. All of them contain many pages of advertising matter in the body of the pamphlet which gives them a somewhat commercial appearance.—*F. G. Tappan*. University of Oklahoma.

● *Edmund Hoppe*. *Geschichte der Optik*. Leipzig. J. J. Weber. 1926. 7 marks.—This book, one of *Webers Illustrierte Handbücher*, is a cloth-bound 12 mo volume containing 264 pages, of which the first four deal with the knowledge of optics which existed up to the year 640 B.C., the next twenty with the discoveries made between 640 B.C. and 1600 A.D., and the next one hundred ten pages with the researches made between the time of Kepler and the introduction of the quantum theory. The twenty illustrations are exact reproductions of important diagrams and pictures which occurred in the source material. There is a bibliography containing 524 references to original papers and other sources. A subject index and an author index complete the volume.