



A good book is the ideal gift for Christmas

**Suggestions:**

No. 1

**This Is Our World**

A brilliant new book by Paul B. Sears of the University Faculty. Selected by Scientific Book-of-the-Month Club and recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club. A book of national importance. \$2.50.

No. 2

**Carbine and Lance**

A highly readable book by W. S. Nye, presenting the colorful and exciting history of Fort Sill. \$3.00.

No. 3

**Boy's Life of Will Rogers**

This book, written by Harold Keith, O.U. graduate and now sports publicity director at the University, is an ideal gift for a boy, and an interesting volume for any adult. \$2.00.

No. 4

**101 Ranch**

Written by Dr. Ellsworth Collings of the University faculty, this book tells the story of the great Miller ranch that is one of the most colorful chapters in the history of Oklahoma. \$3.00.

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PLEASE PRINT

# Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

*This Is Our World*, by Paul B. Sears. University of Oklahoma Press, 1937. \$2.50

TOO many of us see the world only in terms of our immediate environment—the bills that must be met, the roof that must be repaired, the mouths that must be fed, the grass that must be cut, and so on.

Now Paul B. Sears, head of the University botany department, has written a most remarkable book that looks at the world as a harmonious whole, with man in and not above the vast symphony of nature of which he is a part.

The book defies analysis without going into generalities. Yet it is "down to earth" in its common sense. Dr. Sears has performed the difficult feat of applying scientific knowledge without being technical, writing vividly without becoming poetic, and generalizing on highly abstract concepts without losing touch with the everyday world of soil, water, minerals, vegetables and animal life.

It is a brilliant description of the place of mankind in a constantly changing world. Sketches by the author add greatly to the attractiveness of the book.

*This Is Our World* was the November selection of the Scientific Book Club, and was scheduled as first on the list of recommendations by the Book-of-the-Month Club.

▲  
*Night Over Mexico*, by Todd Downing, '24, '28ma. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., New York, \$2.00.

Todd Downing's seventh book has a weird Mexican setting, and like his others, it places Hugh Rennett in a mysterious situation that makes him an unwilling but curious detective.

In many ways, this story is the most perplexing of any in the series, although the final solution is rational enough. Mr. Downing reaches a new high level in atmospheric suspense and terror. He continues to present an interesting group of characters—human people who are reacting to a strange and eerie situation.

Good reading for the mystery fans.

▲  
*A History of Historical Writing*, by Harry Elmer Barnes. University of Oklahoma Press, 1937. \$3.50.

History is not quite such a simple thing as merely listing facts like "Columbus discovered America in 1492" and "The Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066."

Harry Elmer Barnes in this book from the University of Oklahoma Press has presented a masterful survey of the historical writing of the past, has pointed

out its weaknesses, and has outlined the stiff requirements to be met by the competent historian of the future.

*A History of Historical Writing* crystallizes the growing dissatisfaction of recent years over the type of history that is based almost entirely on the incidents of political and military history. Mr. Barnes, who ranks at the top as an authority in the field of history, has shown clearly the inadequacies of history based on a nationalistic viewpoint, or a certain political or economic viewpoint, or indeed, any viewpoint except that of the widely read and open-minded historian who attempts to interpret the causes of historical events in terms of all the available knowledge of science.

Mr. Barnes emphasizes these points:

1. The new history is more than a new conception of the scope and purpose of history. It carries with it the obligation of a far more profound and varied type of preparation for the career of the historian.

2. It is new in the wider degree to which the broader view of history has been accepted, in the recognition of the importance of the social sciences in the training of the historian, and in the conquest of history by the genetic point of view derived from the biologists and the evolutionary philosophers.

3. Down to the present time the exponents of the new history have found it necessary to engage in a campaign of persistent propaganda and education. They have now definitely won the victory, and can henceforth concentrate their energy upon perfecting the basis of the new history and upon providing for the training of those who will be competent to practice the new history.

4. The two chief tasks of the new history are to reconstruct as completely as possible the civilization of the past and to trace the development of the leading social institutions of today. Of these two, the latter is by far the more important. The contributions which it may make to the better understanding of our own age is the chief, if not the only real service of history.

5. No single category of historical events can be regarded as adequate to furnish the skeleton for the organization of the whole story of the historical evolution of human culture; least of all can political events. With the advent of cultural and institutional history there must pass into oblivion, not only the previous political scaffolding of history, but also the conventional history of nations and the accepted historical chronology.