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PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE¹

By N. C. NELSON

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¹Address of the vice-president and chairman of the Section on Anthropology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Atlantic City, December, 1936. up an abundance of relics in nearly every quarter. Interpretation of the evidence thus obtained has kept close pace and is continually being rectified as new facts accumulate. The outstanding results of these research activities are that in the short span of seventyfive years the story of human existence has been stretched from the 5,000 years or so covered by written documents to a million years or more and we are beginning dimly to see the general course of progress from near the time when man first took to making implements and thereby differentiated himself once and for all from the rest of animal creation. The picture may never be fully developed as to its minor details, but the grand outline is permanently fixed and is clear enough for any school child to see and appreciate. Under the circumstances, if the astronomers are permitted to startle us with their idea of a rapidly expanding physical universe, there is no

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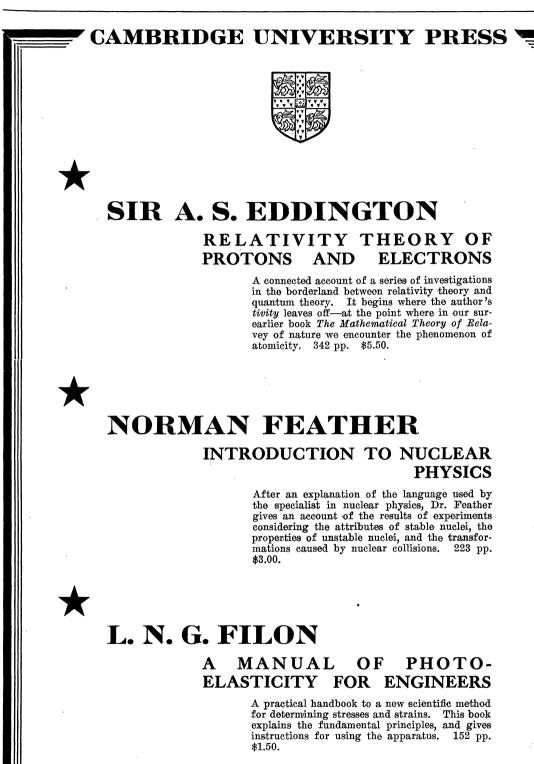
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