

The editor's paper on the sand-wasp (*Odynerus spinipes*) was welcome as breaking new ground in photography, for of photographs of birds it is possible to get weary, unless they have something new to tell us; and that is by no means always the case, in spite of the editor's extravagant claim (p. 8) that our knowledge of British birds has been doubled in the last decade by photography alone.

We are glad to see that in the four succeeding numbers the art is applied freely to insects and reptiles, as well as to birds and quadrupeds. The March number contains some admirable photos of the three species of British snakes, and also a good paper on the snake-fly and the alder-fly, with illustrations showing a decided improvement on those of the sand-wasps. The April number has a paper with good illustrations of young moles, and the May number is appropriately devoted mainly to the cuckoo. Special mention may be made of Mr. Oliver Pike's "bioscope record" of the performance of a young cuckoo in ejecting from the nest a sedge-warbler older and larger than itself. We wish the editor and his contributors all success in their work, hoping at the same time that, in spite of the beauty of its illustrations, *Wild Life* will not be used by beginners simply as a picture-book.

*Photographic Supplement to Stanford's Geological Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland.* Arranged and edited by H. B. Woodward, F.R.S., with the cooperation of Miss Hilda D. Sharpe. Pp. 113. (London: Edward Stanford, Ltd., 1913.) Price 4s. net.

Two years ago Miss Hilda Sharpe published a field notebook of geological illustrations (see NATURE, vol. lxxxviii., p. 74), and she has now done further service by collecting nearly half the photographs in Mr. H. B. Woodward's volume. Some of the remaining half have been previously published by the Geological Survey, and others are from the series in the care of the British Association. Among the most original and suggestive are Miss Sharpe's own "View from Summit of Caer Caradoc," showing the outweathered cones of Uriconian rock, and Mr. Armstrong's "Escarpment of Millstone Grit, near Leek." Landscapes like these, and the Survey's "Raised Beaches near Strome Ferry," illustrate the geological atlas better than any number of quarry-sections. Among the latter, however, the Jurassic Clay and Limestone at Bromham (No. 68) and the Chalk and Thanet Sand at Crayford (No. 89) are highly characteristic. The Scotch views include the Torridon Sandstone and the mountainous features near Glen Etive; but the wild heart of Skye is unrepresented. Ireland is honoured by one picture, a rather distant view of the Giant's Causeway; but should this very compact basaltic lava be called a dolerite?

We are glad to see Mr. H. Preston's work in England well utilised, as in the cases of the Norwich Crag of Thorpe (No. 97) and the massive limestones of Lincolnshire; but such a book always makes us ask for more. Those who use the atlas

will look for further help in realising the country. Can we not have the cirques of Snowdon, the long lakes of Westmoreland, white between their rain-swept hills, the highland border beyond Stirling, or the scarp of the intrusive sheet that fixed the margin of the Roman world? G. A. J. C.

*A Dictionary of English and Folk-Names of British Birds.* By H. Kirke Swann. Pp. xii + 266. (London: Witherby and Co., 1913.) Price 10s. net.

THIS book is strictly a dictionary, and on that account less interesting to turn over than Mr. Swainson's "Provincial Names of Birds," published for the English Dialect Society in 1886, which also dealt to some extent with the folklore. Mr. Swann, however, claims to have added some three thousand names to those collected by his predecessor: he has evidently taken great pains, and deserves much credit for a handbook which will always be useful. We will make one critical remark only. If Welsh, Gaelic, Cornish, and Irish names are freely admitted to the list, why not Anglo-Saxon, which are at the roots of our own local names? "Enid," for example, was the English word for a duck till the fifteenth century, but it is not here. Mr. Swann's work begins with Chaucer; but he might well search the Anglo-Saxon vocabularies for addenda to a second edition.

*Religious Beliefs of Scientists: Including over 140 hitherto Unpublished Letters on Science and Religion from Eminent Men of Science.* By A. H. Tabrum. With an Introduction by Rev. C. L. Drawbridge. New and enlarged edition. Pp. xxi + 309. (London: Hunter and Longhurst, 1913.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

TO the second edition of this collection of letters forty new communications, which Mr. Tabrum has received in reply to his questions from workers in science, have been added. Such a compilation of opinions must necessarily be of doubtful value, the questions propounded unavoidably lack precision, and the answers too often turn out to be very general in character. But the volume will be of interest to the class of reader who is anxious to know the opinions of distinguished men on important questions outside their own special fields of knowledge.

*The British Empire with its World Setting.* By J. B. Reynolds. Pp. viii + 200. (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1913.) Price 1s. 4d.

THE attempt to survey the geography of the British Empire in a little book of this size, at the same time providing an outline sketch of the geography of the rest of the world and upwards of ninety maps, diagrams, and illustrations, more than forty of them being full-page pictures, was bound to lead to very severe compression. The number of place-names on a single page is often far greater than children can be expected reasonably to remember. The book is very attractive in appearance, and the writer's name is a guarantee for accuracy.