(3) Mr. Wallis's "Geographical Exercise Books" consist of blank maps (sometimes with contour lines), and on the page facing each map a series of questions or directions as to filling it up and writing notes or exercises on the results obtained and the conditions revealed. Both maps and letterpress appear to be very judiciously chosen or compiled, and in the hands of a pupil of moderate capacity in draughtsmanship the finished product should possess a permanent value.

(4) Messrs. Bacon's "Sixpenny Contour Atlas" is very good, considering its price. It contains thirty-two coloured maps, showing the elevation of the land according to a recognised method, and dealing with the world and its various divisions, in addition to which there are a few maps of a special area, varying according to the pupil's requirements—*e.g.*, the edition under notice is that for south-east England, and contains special maps of that district, while editions for south Scotland, south Wales, and others are promised.

(5) The same firm's publication, "The Map and its Story," does not maintain the standard of the work previously noticed, so far as concerns its coloured maps illustrating climate, vegetation, etc. Some of the printing (*e.g.*, of the natural resources shown in red lettering) is bad, and some of the distribution colouring weak. But the distinctive feature of the work, the letterpress accompanying the maps, explains them very clearly, and ought to fulfil the purpose of guiding students as to what they should look for and find, not only on these, but on other maps.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Huxley Memorial Lectures to the University of Birmingham. With an Introduction by Sir Oliver Lodge. Pp. 164. (Birmingham: Cornish Brothers, Ltd., 1914.) Price 5*s.* net.

OF the nine memorial lectures which have been delivered, the present volume contains only five. That by Prof. Joly on pleochroic halos does not even mention Huxley's name. Sir Oliver Lodge leads off with Huxley's own defence against the charge of materialism. "There is a third thing in the universe which . . . I cannot see to be matter or force, or any conceivable modification of either." This was consciousness. Sir Michael Foster found in Huxley the "conviction that what began as a search into things physical has become a search into things spiritual." Prof. Poulton points out that Huxley "never committed himself to a full belief in natural selection, and even contemplated the possibility of its ultimate disappearance." We come, in the remarkable paper by Prof. Percy Gardner, to the pith of the matter, "in regard to which words from Birmingham are greatly valued, the study of the subconscious side of man."

Prof. Bergson's lecture on life and consciousness traverses a field antipodal to that of Huxley. Consciousness is "the mind." It "and matter are antagonistic forces." It is at once a "creative force," a "vital impulse," and a "spiritual force." Life is "nothing but consciousness using matter for its purposes." It "cuts it up in order to bring about a greater precision." "The evolution of life as a whole suggests to us the image of a current of consciousness which flows down into matter as into a tunnel." The final conclusion is "that with man consciousness has finally left the tunnel" to "pursue its path beyond this earthly life."

Dew-Ponds—History, Observation, and Experiment. By E. A. Martin. Pp. 208. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd., n.d.) Price 6*s.* net.

A DIFFICULT problem has been attacked by Mr. E. A. Martin in this book. He defines a dew-pond as "one situated on the higher grounds, generally on the chalk downs of the south of England, which retains by some means or other a supply of water throughout all but the most prolonged droughts, whilst those ponds situated on the lower lands have consistently dried up." With the aid of continuous observation, and a grant from the Royal Society for experimental purposes, he has been able to throw much light on these curious ponds. He shows that "dew-pond" is a misnomer, for dew is quite insufficient to make up for loss by evaporation; and he inclines to the use of the term "mist-pond" as better explaining their origin. However, "dew-pond" is in common use, and when farmers speak of dew they include the condensation of mist and cloud also.

The author suggests that the small crystals of sodium chloride, found in sea air, have acted "as nuclei of condensation when the night-mists form on the downs, and as the mists blow up in the early morning from the sea they pass across the pond-depressions and are deposited in quantities there." Certainly it is to the morning mists drifting in from the sea that the replenishment of these ponds is mainly due. We would direct particular attention to some of the observations, in which are given actual measurements of the amount thus deposited. It is noticeable also what a large part is played by rushes or other vegetation in increasing the deposition. However, aspect, slope of ground, and other things all play their part, and great care is needed in the selection of a site.

We recommend this book to the notice of engineers and others who have to do with hilly regions where rain is deficient, but where heavy mists are common, as, for instance, the Pacific slopes of the Andes.