

NATURE

SUPPLEMENT

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SHORT REVIEWS

BIOLOGY

(1) **Bacteriology**

For Medical Students and Practitioners. By Prof. A. D. Gardner. (Oxford Medical Publications.) Second edition. Pp. viii+274. (London: Oxford University Press, 1938.) 6s. net.

(2) **The Microscope Made Easy**

By A. Laurence Wells. Pp. 182. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 3s. 6d. net.

(1) **PROF. GARDNER** has managed to include in this small book a surprising amount of information on bacteriology, which is adequate for the medical practitioner who desires to keep abreast of advances in the subject, as well as being detailed enough for the medical student, with some supplementary reading. The matter is well presented and readable, singularly free from errors, and well up to date. Apart from the descriptions of the pathogenic micro-organisms and their effects, such subjects as immunity and antibody-antigen reactions, agglutination and anaphylaxis, and bacterial variation, are particularly well done, and the author has managed to include short sections on disinfection and the bacteriology of water and milk. The additional chapter on viruses in this second edition gives an excellent general account of the subject, together with sections on microscopical visibility and the bacteriophage. This is a book that can be cordially recommended.

(2) Mr. Wells's book, as its title implies, is a simple guide to elementary microscopy. The descriptions are easy to follow, and accounts are given of the microscope, and how to examine and mount a number of objects—crystals, pond life, diatoms, etc. The book contains several plates which satisfactorily illustrate and name a number of the objects mentioned in the text. The beginner without previous knowledge of microscopy will find it a useful first book on the subject.

R. T. H.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma

Edited by Lt.-Col. R. B. S. Sewell. (Published under the Patronage of the Secretary of State for India.) Butterflies. Vol. 1. By G. Talbot. Pp. xxix+600+3 plates. (London: Taylor and Francis, Ltd., 1939.) 35s.

SINCE the publication of Bingham's volumes in the Fauna of India series in 1905 and 1907, knowledge of Indian butterflies has progressed very considerably. The issue of new volumes on these insects is, therefore, justified. In the present book there is a general and rather elementary introduction to certain aspects of the subject as a whole. External characters, variation, mimicry and distribution are dilated upon in this chapter: the rest of the volume is devoted to accounts of the species belonging to the families Papilionidæ and Pieridæ and, whenever possible, descriptions of the early stages are included.

The present work is uniform with the other volumes in the series and maintains the standard already established by its predecessors. It is a book which all who wish to know about Indian butterflies will need to consult. Some time will evidently elapse before the work is brought to completion by subsequent volumes, since only about one seventh of the recognized species are dealt with in the present contribution.

The Structure of Economic Plants

By Prof. Herman E. Hayward. Pp. x+674. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1938.) 22s. net.

THIS volume is an outgrowth of the author's courses in plant anatomy at the University of Chicago. It is divided into two parts, the first dealing with general plant anatomy, and the second with the structure of a selection of plants of economic value. These are chosen partly for their economic importance, partly as typical representatives of the various families, and partly for their anatomical