

zoology, can research find help like this? What other zoologist has attempted to serve his fellow-workers with such disinterested devotion as Dr. Bonnet has shown?

The labour was completed and prepared for the press in March 1941. Dr. Bonnet ends with six pages we could ill have spared, telling of his final difficulties, of saving his manuscript from the bombs of the R.A.F., of years spent in search for paper—he asked for 1,000 kgm. and was granted 12 kgm.—of the dreadful day in June 1944 when the Germans requisitioned his luggage and all seemed lost indeed. In the end, the book was printed at Dr. Bonnet's expense. It is, we believe, unique: assuredly it is a magnificent contribution to scholarship. It deserves the support of zoologists and libraries all over the world in recognition of the successful attainment of an ambition which it is hard to match in the history of science.

T. H. SAVORY.

## SCIENCE AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

Problems of the Countryside

By C. S. Orwin. (Current Problems, No. 26.) Pp. iv+112. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1945.) 3s. 6d. net.

LOVE of the land is a sentiment which can be found in most Britons, and the knowledge that for many years our countryside has been in sore distress has caused them pain and misgivings. For personal and national reasons, they are anxious to restore rural England to a state of prosperity and happiness. But from this point unanimity breaks down, and the remedies suggested for bringing health to the country are manifold. Generally, they can be put under two heads. There are those who sigh for the days of "Merrie England", and with rose-tinted lenses gloss over industrial and economic changes since 1750 and long for the days of simple village crafts and all that went with them. The other school of thought accepts all the developments which have followed the application of scientific discovery and invention, and believe that these should be energetically applied to the countryside for its relief and amelioration.

One need scarcely say that Dr. Orwin belongs to the second school and that no one in Britain is better fitted to deal with the problems of the countryside than the late Director of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute at Oxford. Although his book is small, Orwin effectively shatters the romantic and nostalgic conception of rural life in England. It is made painfully clear that the economic and social life of the countryman bears no comparison with that of the industrial worker living in the town, and that the declining birth-rate and continuing migration to the towns is adding to the decay of the villages. Orwin marshals his facts with forceful strategy. He shows, for example, how the farms, fields and home-steads of to-day appear as they were defined and equipped perhaps a hundred years ago for other types of farming conducted by other methods; how on about 47 per cent of the land of Britain, the standard of efficiency in food production is condemned to be a long way below the maximum attainable; and how the permanent equipment of farming has scarcely changed with the changing character of husbandry. So the case is built up for the improvement of the land itself.

In the villages Orwin discusses the bad quality of the houses, the lack of laid-on water, sanitation and artificial lighting, the paucity of health services, the primitive state of educational facilities, the dearth of leaders, and so on. He also deals in some detail with the problems of local government and rural life and builds up an unanswerable case for long-overdue reform.

Dr. Orwin recommends two main policies to improve the benighted state of our ill-used countryside: a new enclosure movement whereby land should be farmed in far larger units, and the planned decentralization of other industries in order to bring back to the villages opportunities of variety of employment on the spot. Whether one accepts them or not, these recommendations should be examined with as much care as has gone into the framing of them.

T. H. HAWKINS.

## VESALIUS

André Vésale

Par Prof. Georges Leboucq. (Collection Nationale, No. 7.) Deuxième édition. Pp. 100. (Bruxelles: J. Lebègue et Cie., 1944.) 15 francs.

THE second edition of this handbook is one of a series of works published by the Belgian Government with the object of directing attention to the cultural importance of that country. The diction of this member of the series is admirably clear, and may indeed be cited as a model of French scientific prose. It suffers unhappily from one inevitable defect. The considerable body of critical and expository literature on Vesalius published during the War could not reach Belgium, and was therefore unknown to Dr. Leboucq. He is, however, out of date in matters which had been clarified before the War, such as the various editions of the "Fabrica" and "Epitome", the early history of the valves of the veins, and the first statement of the pulmonary circulation. Also there are some inaccuracies in the recording of proper names. It is time to cease conferring on Galen the personal name of Claudius, especially as this mistake goes back at least to 1538; Aldrovandi appears as Aldobrandi; and the patronymic of John Caius was not Kaye.

Apart from such blemishes, which indeed are only of minor importance, the book may be recommended as an attractive and informative introduction to Vesalius and his environment, to his predecessor from the classical period to the Renaissance, and to his successors up to the time of Harvey. It is gratifying to note that Dr. Leboucq does not subscribe to the modern heresy which attempts to deprive Harvey of the discovery of the circulation of the blood. On the contrary, he regards Vesalius and Harvey as the two men of genius whose works constitute the foundation on which the modern science of medicine has been built.

The text includes a translation into French by Dr H. De Waele of the last chapter of the "Fabrica" on the dissection of living animals. It may be added that this chapter was translated into English by B Farrington in 1931.

There is only one illustration—an engraved version of an oil painting in the Louvre of a young man which Spielmann has given good reasons for concluding is *not* a portrait of Vesalius.

F. J. COLE.