

Mr. Hollingworth "On the Chinese Game of Chess," Mr. Forrest (acting Consul at Ningpo) "On the Christianity of Hung Tsiu Tsuen, being a Review of Taeping Books," and the Rev. S. R. Brown's translation of a curious old Japanese manuscript entitled "Annals of the Western Ocean." The last-named article is one of singular interest in many respects. It is divided into three parts, the first of which contains an account of the arrest of a Roman Catholic priest upon an island called Yaku-Shirna in the year 1708, his removal to Nagasaki and examination there, and his subsequent arrival at Yeddo, imprisonment, trial, and death. The name of the person as given in Japanese syllables was Jean Baptista Shirotte, and he is supposed to have been the last Roman Catholic missionary who landed in Japan previous to the year 1859. The second part contains the report of the prisoner's examination, and the information obtained from him respecting the military and naval power, and the wars and conquests of the Western nations; while the third comprises the missionary's answers to the questions put to him about himself and his family connections, his reason for coming to Japan, and his religious creed.

From the very curious paper on the "Birds and Beasts of Formosa" which is translated by Mr. Swinhoe, H.B.M. Council at Taiwan, from the 18th chapter of the "*Tai-wan-foo-che*, or Statistics of Taiwan," we learn that "as soon as the doe that has finished suckling observes her roe getting to maturity, she deserts it and repairs to other hills, fearing that her young might entertain an improper affection for herself. Animals do not confuse the laws of consanguinity, the horse excepted. The doe deprives her offspring of any such opportunity by setting a distance between herself and her young." We have quoted this passage because it contains almost the identical views expressed by Aristotle,* but we suspect that this idea is not based on any sound foundation.

Several of the articles, and especially those of Dr. Henderson "On the Medicine and Medical Practice of the Chinese," and of Mr. Walters "On Chinese Notions about Pigeons and Doves," throw considerable light on the absurd mode of practice adopted by the native doctors. From the latter paper we learn that the eggs of pigeons are an antidote to the injurious effects of boils and smallpox. Some persons may think the remedy worse than the disease, as the following course has to be followed:—Two eggs must be hermetically sealed in a bamboo tube and placed in the middle of a cesspool for half a moon. The whites are then to be mixed with three ounces of *shen-sha*, a very fine red sand-like substance, and the compound is to be divided into pills of the size of a green pea. If thirty of these pills are taken three times a day, the patient will soon find relief, for the poisonous matter will be rapidly discharged by the bowels and kidneys. The excrement of the same bird, when roast to cinder and soaked in wine, forms a cure for cold on the chest, and there are several other affections in which it is very useful. Let us conclude with a pleasanter remedy. "Of the *shu-chin* or wood-pigeon it is written that its flesh is sweet, delicate, and without poison. It also gives one a composed mind, and enables him to do with little sleep.

* See his "History of Animals," Book ix., chap. 34 (Creswell's Translation in Bohm's *Scientific Series*), in which he tells two very remarkable stories regarding a camel and a stallion in relation to this subject.

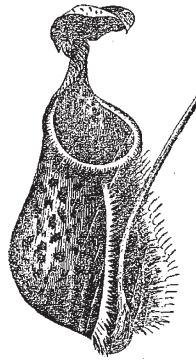
Its foot and leg bones have the very delightful quality of exciting affection between husband and wife. If on the fifth day of the fifth moon the husband takes one of these bones and the wife takes one, each putting the bone in a basin of water, one from the left and the other from the right side, the two bones will come together and float together, thus indicating a long and happy union to the parties trying the experiment."

G. E. D.

OUR BOOK SHELF

A Manual of Structural Botany for the Use of Classes, Schools, and Private Students. By M. C. Cooke. New Edition. (London: R. Hardwicke.)

We have so often felt it our duty to expose the incompetence of those who attempt to write elementary text-books of science, that it is a real pleasure to come upon one like Mr. Cooke's "Manual of Botany," where a man of really accurate scientific knowledge applies himself to writing an elementary work on the rudiments of his science. The special object of the publication, as stated in the preface, is to supply a cheap manual to place in the hands of students in the Botanical Classes established for operatives in connection with the Department of Science and Art; but it may well be used as a first book to prepare for other objects, as, for instance, for the first B.Sc. examination, or that for Women, at the University of London, though it would then have to be supplemented by others on the systematic branch of the subject. The descriptions are clear and accurate, and expressed in commendably terse language. It is illustrated by over two hundred woodcuts, some of them of decided merit; and we have reserved our crowning sentence of commendation till the last—the price is one shilling!



Pitcher of *Nepenthes*

A. W. B.

Geographisches Jahrbuch. III. Band, 1870. Unter Mitwirkung von A. Anvers, J. Baeyer, A. Fabricius, A. Griesbach, Fr. Müller, Fr. Neumann, L. K. Schmarda, F. R. Seligmann, J. Spörer, H. Wagner:—Herausgegeben von E. Behm, Mitredakteur von Petermann's Geogr. Mittheilungen, 1870. (Gotha: Perthes. London: Williams and Norgate.)

WE lately had occasion to speak in terms of high commendation of Vivien de St. Martin's *Année Géographique*, and we can award equal praise to Behm's corresponding work, which is the more elaborate of the two, and consequently the less agreeable to the ordinary reader. It is divided into four parts, devoted respectively to Geographical Chronology, Geographical Statistics, Essays on the Progress of Geographical Knowledge, and Tables of use in Mathematical Geography. The first part consists of a geographical calendar, stating the date of the discoveries of various countries, of the birthdays and deaths of great geographers, &c. (for example, on the day on which we are now writing, April 22nd, J. Richer arrived at Cayenne, 1672; the island of Rea or Wallis was discovered by Maurelle, 1781; Reao was discovered by Duperry, 1822; Denham arrived at India (Mandara) 1823; and the *Novara* sailed from Singapore, 1858); and it treats of the manner in which time is calculated in certain countries. The second part is extremely valuable, but is very dull; any information that may be required as to the state of the population of any country, of the number of houses and inhabitants in a square mile, &c., may be readily found here. The third part consists of extremely