

logists, my own included, would it be convenient for me to enter into detailed argument on his ethnology. I need only mention as points to which exception is likely to be taken, Mr. Clodd's easy passing over of the really serious difficulty, what became of the bones of the Drift-men and Cave-men, and his too confident expressions as to the first habitat of man, and the Origin of Languages. This said, what is left for me is simply to announce his work, helping to make it known to the class of readers who are waiting for it.

E. B. TYLOR

### OUR BOOK SHELF

*Notes on Natural Philosophy.* By G. F. Rodwell, F.R.A.S., F.C.S., Lecturer on Natural Philosophy in Guy's Hospital and Science Master in Marlborough College. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1873.)

THIS useful little work is an enlargement of Notes which the author had prepared for the students attending his lectures at Guy's Hospital. The title is perhaps a little too wide, as the book contains no reference to Sound and but a scanty treatment of Light, polarisation, for example, being not even mentioned. These omissions are explained in the preface as caused by the adaptation of the notes to the "Preliminary Scientific" Examination at the London University. We are quite sure, however, the author will agree with us that students for this examination will have to supplement their reading by some rather stiffer work than we find here. As an *introductory* text-book for this examination it is quite the best we have seen, the author having carefully avoided that atrocious system of giving candidates only just such knowledge as may help them to scrape through an examination. The evidence of conscientious labour which is conspicuous throughout the book makes us the more regret the incompleteness of these Notes. Even of the subjects treated it is obvious that in 160 pages, only the barest outlines of natural philosophy can be given. The "Notes" therefore chiefly consist of lucid and concise definitions, and everywhere bristle with the derivations of scientific terms. To this latter point the author has devoted much labour and thereby done good service to science; though on the other hand we cannot help thinking Mr. Rodwell runs a fair chance of being accused of pedantry by his frequent use of Latin quotations. One or two little points needing correction catch our eye. Fig. 18 is printed upside down; amidst all the derivations we do not see the meaning of the terms given to different thermometric scales; here as in some other books cobalt is erroneously stated to be attracted to a magnet even at the highest temperature. As this seems to be a frequent error we will give Faraday's own words on this matter: they are to be found on the very last page of his "Experimental Researches in Electricity." "By greater elevation (of temperature) nickel first loses its distinctive power at about 635° F., then iron at a moderate red heat, and cobalt at a far higher temperature than either, near the melting-point of copper." There cannot be a doubt that this little book will be of use to science teachers and science students.

*Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society*, for 1872-73. (Norwich: 1873.)

THIS little volume contains some excellent papers. The president, Dr. Beverley, in his address, suggests, rightly, we think, that members of such societies ought, in their researches and papers, never to lose sight of the views and opinions usually associated with the name of Darwin, and very justly says that "the origin of species, the

theory of evolution, and other Darwinian doctrines, cannot be proved or disproved by newspaper controversy or theological discussion." The first paper is by Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., on the Ornithology of Spain, which is followed by a short paper on *Vanessa Antiopa*, by Mr. C. G. Barrett. This is followed by a long, carefully compiled, and well illustrated list of the Fungi of Norfolk, by Mr. C. B. Plowright, M.R.C.S. The president, Dr. Beverley, also contributes a paper on the edible fungi of Norfolk, in which he draws attention to the great value of this much neglected source of nutritive food. There is an interesting paper on the Ot'er, by Mr. T. Southwell, F.Z.S. The two last papers are, one on the "Wild Birds' Protection Act," by Mr. H. Stevenson, F.Z.S., in which he points out the many obvious holes in the Act and adds a list of "wild birds," containing the most common provincial names by which they are known in England and Scotland; and Notes on the Mammalia of Norfolk, by Mr. T. Southwell. This society deserves the greatest credit for the important work its members are doing. They are making a praiseworthy, and so far a successful effort, to publish a fauna and flora of Norfolk. Already there have been prepared a list of the Mammalia and Reptilia, the Land, Freshwater, and Marine Shells, and, as we have above said, a list of the fungi. These will be followed by the Fishes, by Dr. Lowe; the Birds, by Mr. Stevenson (author of "The Birds of Norfolk"); the Flowering Plants and Ferns, by Mr. H. D. Geldart; Lepidoptera, by Mr. C. G. Barrett; all of which, we believe, are in hand, and will be published as the society finds funds to print them. Such a society deserves the greatest encouragement, and it is a pity that it should be hindered in its good work for want of funds. This ought not to be in a county like Norfolk, and we are sure that the intelligent inhabitants of that county only need to be made aware of the value of the work the society is doing, to come forward and lend it a helping hand. This they will best do by becoming members and taking as active an interest in the work as their circumstances permit. The society ought to take effectual means of making its aims and the value of its work be known throughout the county.

*Birds of the Humber District.* By John Cordeaux. (Van Voorst.)

MR. CORDEAUX is so well known as a careful and trustworthy observer of nature, that any work on his favourite subject, from his hand, must be read with interest. A residence of ten years in the district of which he writes, comprising North and Mid-Lincolnshire, and Holderness, has enabled him to gain a thorough familiarity with the times of appearance and departure of the birds which visit it. These points he has noted with great pains and precision, as is proved by the fact that he has been able clearly to trace the points of the district at which each of the migratory birds enter and depart, most doing so from the sea-coast, the grey wagtail, cuckoo, and common dotteril, being the only exceptions. The sections, of considerable length, devoted to the dates on which to expect the various wading birds, and the conditions of weather which cause these to vary, will be of great interest to sportsmen in the locality; the woodcock, snipe, and plover receive the fullest attention. Among the rare birds that are recorded as having been met with formerly, or of which one or more specimens have been shot lately, we find the cream-coloured courser, Macquenn's bustard (the only British example), Tengmalin's owl, and the tawny pipit. Most extraordinary of all is a jacamar in the collection of Canon Tristram, which was shot in 1849 by S. Fox, a gamekeeper, near Gainsborough; as the author remarks, "it must ever remain an ornithological puzzle how it could have reached this country." We recommend this excellent little work to all ornithologists and sportsmen.