

necessarily, so limited; a type only of each genus being represented, with some few structural details of others. Figures, such as those here given, of all the species comprised in the work, would make it one of the most valuable and important faunistic works on spiders that have been published for many years. In spite, however, of this, probably inevitable, drawback, we hail this volume with great satisfaction, not only for what it is in itself, but as an earnest of what we hope is to follow before any great lapse of time. A second volume, containing four more families—Urocteoidæ, Agelenidæ, Thomisidæ, and Sparassidæ—is announced for April next; and it is considered that four or five volumes in the whole will complete the work.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES AND QUERIES

*Notes and Queries on Anthropology, for the Use of Travellers and Residents in Uncivilised Lands.* Published by a Committee appointed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. (London: E. Stanford, 1874.)

WELL asked is half answered, and more problems escape solution because no one happens to propose them, than because of their real difficulty. To suggest suitable inquiries to the mind of a traveller or colonist as to the wild races he comes in contact with, is to start him on a course of ethnological investigation which may lead to excellent results. The plan of drawing up lists of such inquiries to be distributed among naval officers, missionaries, and others, is not new. The Ethnological Society of London issued a set years ago, which drew much information. An elaborate series of questions as to the North American tribes, answers to which constitute some of the best material in Schoolcraft's "Indian Tribes of the United States," is reprinted at the end of vol. i. of that work. The "Admiralty Manual of Scientific Inquiry" contains an ethnological section, first drawn up by Dr. Prichard, and since revised. The present publication issued by the British Association is far more complete than any of these earlier guides. The committee by whom it has been drawn up are Col. Lane Fox (secretary) Dr. Beddoe, Mr. Franks, Mr. F. Galton, Mr. E. W. Braubrook, Sir J. Lubbock, Sir Walter Elliot, Mr. Clements R. Markham, and Mr. E. B. Tylor. The first sections, relating to the physical constitution of man, are drawn up by Dr. Beddoe, who gives drawings and directions for measurement of skull and limbs, &c. It adds much to the value of the book that the eminent French anthropologist, Dr. Broca, has allowed his set of colour-types to be reproduced. By the aid of these tinted patches, the colour of skin, hair, and eyes in individuals of any race may be set down within a shade. Thus, instead of loosely describing a Peruvian Indian's complexion as copper-brown, it might be defined as between No. 42 and No. 43 of Broca's table. The section on archæology is by Col. Lane Fox, and contains cuts of the principal types of stone implements, contributed by Mr. John Evans, also an ideal representation of a valley, to show the position of the gravel beds above the present river-level, where travellers may be likely to find drift-implements. The sections on war, hunting, and ornamentation are also by Col. Fox; the latter article is especially interesting from the illustra-

tions of the principal patterns used in barbaric ornamental carving, &c., such as the chevron, fret or key-border, plait or guilloche. Mr. Franks deals with the subjects of clothing, personal ornaments, pottery, &c.; Mr. Evans with weaving, basket-work, &c.; Mr. Galton with statistics; Sir J. Lubbock with relationships; Mr. Tylor with religion, mythology, language, customs, &c.; Prof. Busk with artificial deformations; Prof. Carl Engel (whom the printer has converted into *Cave* Engel) on music; Mr. Hyde Clarke on weights and measures, money, &c. The articles often contain not only leading questions, but introductions which state in few words what is known on their subjects.

We strongly recommend those who have friends within reach of uncivilised countries to send them out at once copies of this little manual. Being not a regular trade publication, but issued by a scientific body, it may very likely fall out of print when the first stock is exhausted.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF

*Lessons in Elementary Botany.* New Edition. By D. Oliver, F.L.S., F.R.S. (Macmillan and Co., 1874.)

THE new edition of this admirable little text-book deserves a word of notice. It is slightly enlarged, the additions principally dealing with the most important points in economic botany. The illustrations have been increased in number, and the few small errors which had crept into the first edition have been corrected. In the present state of our classificatory knowledge of flowering plants, it would be hardly possible to have a better guide than Prof. Oliver's "Lessons." Something, doubtless, will still have to be supplied by the oral instruction of the teacher. No series of natural objects ever was or ever will be quite comfortable when packed into a classification. The exposition of the term *perigynous*, for instance, requires that the pupils should be not exacting, but reasonable; there have been found even grown-up and advanced botanists who have allowed themselves to be sceptical about the application of the term to the corolla of the common Holly. They have even ventured to go so far as to wonder how the insertion of the corolla would differ in this case if it were *hypogynous*.

The few pages at the end of the book devoted to Cryptogams have been slightly enlarged, but are still not perhaps intended to more than indicate the existence of other types of vegetable life besides Phanerogams. If the criticism may be allowed (and it really seems ungracious in a case like the present), it would have been better not to apply the term Order to groups differing so widely in their relative diversity as, say, *Cyperaceæ* and *Gramineæ* on the one hand, and *Musci* and *Fungi* on the other. On no possible modern classificatory principles can such aggregates of organisms be regarded as equipollent or comparable. Then *Lichenes* can hardly be said to hold up its head as a distinct group with the same unimpeachableness that was the case five years ago.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

On the Northern Range of the Fallow Deer in Europe

THE essay, illustrated by woodcuts, on the existence of the Fallow Deer in Pleistocene times in England, in *NATURE* (vol. xi. p. 210), leaves no room for doubting that the antlers named in the books *Cervus brownii* and *Cervus somouensis*,