

workers can make it of the fauna of which it treats, its honest tale is not only plainly but also briefly told. In other words, we are spared those poor attempts at poetical prose and all the allied sins which seem so easily to beset the field naturalist. This is another way of saying that the work has been undertaken and executed in a purely scientific spirit. After a few introductory chapters on the geography, topography, physical aspects, &c., of the area, the authors proceed to give a systematic catalogue of the entire vertebrate fauna, beginning with the mammals and ending with the fish. In this catalogue everything relating to distribution, habits, &c., which can possibly be of any interest is likewise set forth in terse phraseology. The whole catalogue covers between 200 and 300 octavo pages, and is everywhere indicative of painstaking labour. Several well-executed plates embellish the volume, which throughout displays good taste as well as sound judgment. We are, therefore, particularly glad to read in their preface that the writers intend this to constitute "the first volume of a series, which, unlike most local faunas, lays aside to a great extent political boundaries, and is marked out by others, much more natural, such as watersheds." We trust that this first volume will meet with the recognition which it deserves; and in any case congratulate the writers on having so successfully accomplished so extensive and valuable a piece of work.

G. J. R.

*Gospel Ethnology.* By S. R. Pattison. (London: Religious Tract Society.)

THE author observes that the many-sided investigations of ethnologists do not seem to have included a study of the way in which Christianity has been received by different races. The problem suggested is undoubtedly an interesting one, but the present volume does not do much to solve it, being mainly made up of a series of anecdotes which go to show that the Gospel, in the form in which it is set forth by Protestant missionaries of the Evangelical school, has found a response in the hearts of individuals of almost every known race. It is reasonable to infer from this that the particular type of Christianity to which Mr. Pattison confines his attention contains motives that appeal to men in almost every stage of social development and culture. But so far as one can judge from the anecdotes, which are not chosen with a view to facilitating scientific analysis, it seems probable that in every case the really effective element in the missionary teaching lay in the Gospel story itself, not in the dogmatic construction built on it by missionaries of a particular school. At any rate, it is plain that no discussion of the problem which Mr. Pattison deals with can claim to be of scientific value so long as it deals only with the reception given to one form of Christian teaching. Nor is it enough to know that *individuals* of almost every race are capable of becoming sincere Christians of a particular school: the ethnologist, from his point of view, is much less concerned with individuals than with masses. A serious inquiry into the fitness of Christianity to become the religion of *societies* that have not come under the influence of the civilization of the Roman Empire would be extremely useful, but such an inquiry cannot be made to any purpose if one starts by identifying Christianity with one of its local and particular types.

There is not really any ethnology in the book before us. There is, indeed, a chapter which professes to give a survey of the races of mankind, but it is so badly done that the book, which is really, as has been said, a collection of anecdotes, would have been better without it. There are some good woodcuts of people of different races.

*The British Journal, Photographic Almanac, and Photographer's Daily Companion for 1888.* Edited by J. Traill Taylor. (London: H. Greenwood and Co., 1888.)

To all those who are engaged in the art of photography either as amateurs or as professionals this work will be

extremely useful. Besides all the ordinary information, such as that of developing, toning, &c., there are articles of the most practical and theoretical nature—written by such men as Captain Abney, F.R.S., Rev. S. J. Perry, F.R.S., &c.—on subjects which are most interesting, and of great service to those who have attained the higher branches of the art.

All the various tables and formulæ are here added, together with a list of all the Photographic Societies at home and abroad.

Two pictorial illustrations are given, one being of the famous yacht *Thistle*, printed by Messrs. Morgan and Kidd on their argentic bromide paper (360 being able to be printed from one negative in an hour) from a negative by Mr. A. H. Clark; the other being a callotype by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons from a negative by Mr. T. B. B. Wellington on a Pall Mall plate, entitled "You naughty boy."

For the sake of young photographers the Editor has written twelve chapters to present in simple language a few lessons in the practice of the art.

#### 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.]

[The Editor urgently requests correspondents to keep their letters as short as possible. The pressure on his space is so great that it is impossible otherwise to insure the appearance even of communications containing interesting and novel facts.]

#### "A Conspiracy of Silence."

WHEN I read Prof. Judd's letter in your issue of last week, I felt as if one of the Eocene volcanoes of the Isle of Mull, which he has described so well, had broken out afresh and covered a great extent of country with erupted matter, decidedly, by a wonderful phenomenon, of the "acid series."

I have a very short reply to give:—

First, it is not the fact that I have made any attack on geologists. The fathers of British geology were among my dearest and most intimate friends, and I have the highest respect for many of the (comparative) specialists among whom, by the division of labour, the science is now divided. Among the most eminent of these I have always reckoned Prof. Judd himself.

Secondly, it is not the fact that I have accused anyone of conscious indifference to truth. I attacked the undue influence of authority in science, and in doing so I used the well-known formula "conspiracy of silence," which, on the face of it, is a metaphorical and rhetorical expression, but which has been used in his latest writings by Prof. Huxley precisely in the same sense, and has been applied by him to the most distinguished scientific body in the world—the French Institute.

Thirdly, it is not the fact that I have challenged discussion on my September article upon "Coral Reefs." I have challenged discussion upon the subject, and on the question of Darwin's theory—of which my paper was a mere popular abstract, and nothing more.

Recent discoveries by the staff of the *Challenger*—the observations of Prof. Semper—the papers of Mr. John Murray, and of Mr. L. Agassiz—and lastly, the recent admirable observations of Dr. Guppy, have, in their combination, afforded ample ground and materials for a review of the whole question; and I have a distinct opinion, which I repeat, that the influence of Darwinian authority and prejudice is one of the causes which has retarded, and is now retarding, any acknowledged solution of the question.

I have heard with extreme regret that Dr. Guppy, the most recent witness to facts irreconcilable with Darwin's theory, has felt compelled to resign his position as member of the London Geological Society—for what reason I do not fully know, but for some reason connected with his views on this subject.

Inverary.

ARGYLL.