

on the pronunciation (which is rightly said to be of great importance) are frequently bewildering. It may be well to point out two typical instances, for the bettering of the book in a future issue.

"Broad-ford in Skye retains the full sound of the Norse *breidr fjördr*, broad firth" (p. 84). This is precisely the thing which it does not do. *Broad* is not Norse, but Southern English; and *ford* suggests the word *ford* rather than *firth*.

"*Völlr*, a field, generally becomes *wall* in composition, as Dingwall in Ross-shire" (p. 89). Here "becomes" really means "is represented by"; for, as a fact, the form *wall* shows a far older stem, in which the *w* has not yet become *v*, and the *a* has not yet been treated with the *u*-umlaut. In other words, it would be far more correct to say, conversely, that the old stem *wall* has become *völlr* in the nominative case of the modern Icelandic word.

One thing, at any rate, must go. And that is, the extraordinary definition of *umlaut* on p. 39. "The law of *umlaut*, as the German philologists call it, whereby the vowel-sound in one syllable is altered by the vowel-sound in a syllable following (all fairly well so far, but mark the sequel), as *husband* and *nostril* stand for *house-band* and *nose-thrill*." Certainly, no German philologist ever said anything of the kind. The *u* in *husband* and the *o* in *nostril* are not examples of *umlaut* at all, for they do not depend in the least upon the vowels *a* or *i* in the second syllable. They simply exhibit examples of vowel-shortening before a collection of consonants, which is a different thing altogether. This is indeed a sentence to induce doubt in the author's methods.

Nevertheless, the book has its place and use. The collection of examples is a thing to be thankful for; and we heartily commend the author for attempting it. But, oh! that he had produced his authorities in every possible case, and had told us where the guesses come in!

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Systematic Survey of the Organic Colouring Matters.* By Drs. G. Schultz and P. Julius. Translated and edited, with extensive additions, by Arthur G. Green. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1894.)

THE German edition of this standard work of reference has already been reviewed in these columns (vol. xlv. p. 313). The translator and editor has done good service in rendering the work more available to English technologists by adding a preliminary section on the raw materials used in the industry, as well as by giving prominence in the tables to English patents. In these particulars the present edition differs from the German, and its value from the English point of view is thereby greatly enhanced. The work is also brought up to date, as all the later discoveries are tabulated. The total number of colouring matters now recorded is 454, as against 392 in the last German edition (1891). Even while Mr. Green was preparing the translation new products were being introduced, and no less than twenty-two new compounds have had to be added in an appendix. Another valuable addition to the English edition is the synoptical table for the qualitative analysis of artificial colouring matters, which was published by the translator last year in the *Journal* of the Society of Chemical Industry, and which is reprinted at the end of the volume.

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One reflection which occurs in looking through the tables is the very unfair action of our patent laws upon English manufacturers. Most of the new discoveries are patented by German, French, or Swiss firms in this country, but the patentees do not make the products here—their patents simply blockade the industry in Britain, without giving our manufacturers any benefit. On the other hand, it is well known how stringent is the attitude, especially of the German Patent Office, in granting patents to foreign inventors. But this is a side issue, suggested only by the large number of references to English patents in the tables before us. Of these tables and of the work as a whole we have only to say that it will be welcomed by manufacturers and students as the latest and most complete synopsis of the organic colouring matters that has hitherto been drawn up.

R. M.

*A Handbook to the Marsupialia and Monotremata.* By Richard Lydekker, B.A., F.G.S. (London: W. H. Allen and Co., 1894.)

MR. LYDEKKER'S capacity for book-making seems to be unlimited. Zoological science is indebted to him for the diffusion of accurate knowledge on the fowl of the air, and "every living thing that creepeth upon the earth" and moves in the sea, from the days when the ichthyosaurus disported itself in the Jurassic ocean to the present enlightened age. He is not, however, a brilliant writer, and all his works possess a sameness of diction, the dead level of which becomes oppressive after a time. The volume under review is a "popular monograph," in which the Marsupials and Monotremes are taken in order and have their characters, distribution, and habits detailed in a more or less attractive manner. These interesting mammals are dealt with one after another, and their characteristics are described in a way that strongly reminds us of the verbal expositions of the guide of a menagerie. The thirty-eight excellently coloured plates, with which the book is embellished, help to render the analogy more realistic. This monotony, however, is probably unavoidable in a work having the scope of Mr. Lydekker's handbook, and, in fairness to him, we must say that he has struck a good compromise between zoological treatises bristling with technical details, and works designed for the profoundly ignorant. It is almost unnecessary to say that the book is thoroughly up-to-date as regards recently discovered species, one of the most interesting of these being the remarkable Marsupial Mole described by Dr. Stirling a few years ago. With the exception of the matter relating to a few species, the book is founded upon Mr. Oldfield Thomas's "Catalogue of the Marsupialia and Monotremata in the Collection of the British Museum" (1888), with the addition of some notes on fossil species of these Orders. Mr. Lydekker has made an admirable and handy abridgment of this "indispensable compendium," and his work, though stodgy in places, will well serve the purpose of a popular book of reference on Australian mammals.

*Climbing in the British Isles—England.* By W. P. Haskett Smith, M.A. Pp. 162. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1894.)

MOUNTAINEERING is a passion. Men who have climbed, rarely, if ever, get rid of the unrestful instinct to scale unconquered peaks and wriggle through unexplored "chimneys." This love of climbing has been growing in England for some years past, and Mr. Haskett Smith's book will certainly assist in extending it still more. The book is the first of a series describing the climbs available in the British Isles, two complementary volumes, dealing respectively with Wales and Scotland, being in preparation. It is not, of course, suggested that hill-climbing in these islands is the same as mountaineering in the