

only a series of very ordinary photographs, many of which have evidently been done from mounted specimens, and, what is more, from badly mounted ones. As to the text, we fail to see the reason for interlarding it with a provokingly numerous series of provincialisms, which, although no doubt familiar enough to the dwellers in East Norfolk, are certainly not household words in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions. To Norfolk people the names of "Herring-Spink," "Reed-Pheasant," "Spinex," and "Draw-Water," doubtless have a meaning, but we should be somewhat surprised if all our readers are aware that they respectively indicate the gold-crest, bearded tit, chaffinch, and goldfinch. It is true that in most cases the author does introduce a better-known name in the course of his notices, but this is not so with the "reed-pheasant." In omitting all scientific names, we are by no means sure that Mr. Emerson is not right, seeing that these are constantly being changed, while *English* names are permanent; but then let us have *English* names, and not *Norfolk* ones.

In the introductory chapter the author says indirectly that not much has been left out in regard to the habits of British birds; and we cannot help adding that if any important omissions do occur, he has done but little in the way of supplying them. Writing of the wren, he observes that "the tomtit, as the Broadsmen call this pert, child-like little bird, always brings an affectionate smile to your face as you see his hopping, plump little body flitting over the bank, or running along the branches of a leafless tree, stopping every now and then to sing his loud-voiced song; for, though his is a little body, he has a mighty and pleasant song." This example cited is only one of many taken almost at random. The professed ornithologist surely does not want such descriptions, and if the book is intended for the eyes of ladies and young people, why are we treated on p. 211 *et seq.* to a very unnecessary anecdote concerning the amours of swans?

We will take it for granted that among the birds our author has correctly determined the species he notices, and has recorded all those found in the Broads; but in the case of the mammals he is far from exact. He states, for instance, that there are two kinds of bats found there, one of which is designated the common, and the other the large bat. By the former is doubtless meant the pipistrelle, but as to the species indicated by the latter title we have no clue; and surely there ought to be more than two species of bats in Norfolk. Among the voles, again, we have two species, respectively termed the "red mouse" and the "marsh-mouse"; and, although the former may be the bank-vole, we can scarcely recognise the common field-vole under the latter inappropriate title, if so be that it is intended for that species. The Broadland rats (which the author places a long distance after the mice and voles) are likewise left in a state of hopeless confusion, and we quite fail to recognise what are the three kinds alluded to under the names of "big rat with yellow chest," "large brown rat," and "little red rat." If the author thinks he has got hold of new species, or the more fashionable sub-species, why did he not submit his specimens to a specialist? But as it is, his notes are useless to the scientific zoologist, and, we should think, of no great interest to the ordinary observer of nature.

In the chapter on frogs and toads, the author excels himself. Of these animals he recognises the following: viz. the "garden-toad," "water-toad," "running toad," "common frog," and "land-frog." To know what creatures are meant might perhaps tax the acumen even of Mr. Boulenger; but the notes on their habits are too naïve. The garden-toad, we are informed, "makes a form in the grass during the hot weather in which to shelter himself; and should you come upon him, he will squat with his bright eyes fixed upon you all the time." This merely records a fact known to every one; but what shall we say of the following concerning the running toad? "The chief thing in connection with this creature is the rockstaff that a man can quiet the most restive horse with the bone of a running toad, which, it is said, will swim against the stream. Yacht designers and others might well look into the matter." Apart from the grammar, what a rockstaff is, we do not know, and we are equally ignorant whether it is the toad or its bone that can swim against stream. A lack of information as regards species and habits is also displayed when the author comes to eels; and he seems to be totally unaware that some years ago the late Surgeon Day communicated an important paper on the breeding of these fishes to the *Proceedings* of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club.

As to the literary style of the book, perhaps the less said the better; and although it may attain a popularity among the numerous frequenters of the Norfolk Broads, it is to be feared that it cannot take a high rank among zoological works.

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OUR BOOK SHELF.

Object-Lessons in Botany. (Book ii., for Standards iii., iv. and v.) Being a Teacher's Aid to a Systematic Course of One Hundred Lessons for Boys and Girls. By Edward Snelgrove, B.A. (London: Jarrold and Sons.)

IT is not perhaps very often that elementary scientific books of the type to which the volume before us belongs, either meets with, or indeed deserves, much success. It is with the greater pleasure, then, that we feel that the author is to be congratulated on having succeeded in producing a really good series of lessons which will be most useful, either in guiding teachers in arranging their class work, or in enabling a student to acquire a knowledge of plants for himself. The series of lessons is progressively arranged, beginning with the simpler forms of leaves and stems, and passing on to the various types of flowers and fruits. The really excellent feature of the work is the method by which the student is led to examine actual plants. The book would probably be of little service to any one merely desirous of "getting up" the subject without troubling to form any practical acquaintance with the objects dealt with. The examples selected as types are well chosen, and the student (or teacher) receives plenty of hints as to other forms which he may usefully compare with them. Almost the only fault we have to find with the book is, after all, only a literary one; still, it seems a pity that the generic names of the plants should have been commenced with a *small* letter, especially in the chapters on botanical names. This, however, is a defect that can easily be remedied in a future edition, which soon should be needed, for we can cordially recommend the volume, both to the elementary teacher and student, as a thoroughly good one.