

æmia and Hodgkin's disease being also very fully treated. Then the blood in acute and chronic infectious diseases, in diseases of special organs, in diseases of the nervous system, constitutional diseases and hæmorrhagic diseases, in malignant diseases in various positions, and, lastly, the blood in which parasites are present. We may take, as an example of the plan of the work, a short description given of the diagnostic value of blood examination in typhoid fever, in which Dr. Cabot notes post-febrile anæmia, sometimes very intense; no leucocytosis; later leucopenia; increased percentage of young leucocytes at the expense of adult forms, especially marked in this late period; most complications cause leucocytosis. Typhoid can be differentiated from local inflammatory processes by the fact that in uncomplicated conditions leucocytosis is never associated with it, whilst all local inflammatory conditions are accompanied by leucocytosis. Typhoid and malaria can, of course, be distinguished by the presence of the malarial organism in one, and its absence in the other. Even in acute tuberculosis, where leucocytosis is not present, the proportion of young leucocytes is, as a rule, larger in typhoid than in tuberculosis. A similar application of this method to other diseases promises excellent results, and we congratulate Dr. Cabot on having placed such a systematic and practical work in the hands of the medical and scientific worker, as we believe that a book of this kind will do more to encourage the study of the pathological conditions of the blood than anything that has appeared in recent years.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Forcing-Book: a Manual of the Cultivation of Vegetables in Glass-houses. By L. H. Bailey. Pp. xiii + 266. (New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1897.)

THIS is a small manual devoted to an explanation of the principles, and to a statement of the practices involved, in "forcing for market." In no department of horticulture do experience and judgment tell more than in forcing operations; but if "practice" be essential, it is certain that to get the best results, it must be directed by trained intelligence. In this country market-gardening under glass has greatly extended of late years, and many agriculturists, finding it no longer remunerative to grow wheat, have turned their attention to the growth of flowers or to market-gardening generally. As a rule these men have been successful because they have known how to adapt themselves to new conditions, and have not been mere slaves to routine. As competition increases it may be expected that market-gardening will become less remunerative, and hence the necessity for increased knowledge and quickened intelligence in order to meet the new circumstances. In the United States, in Germany, in France, in Belgium, in Denmark, this truth has been recognised, and horticultural schools and experiment stations have been established for years. In this country, as is usually the case in such matters, we have lagged behind, and have many arrears to clear off before we can deem ourselves on a level with the countries we have mentioned. And all this time we are importing, to an enormous amount, commodities a large proportion of which might be grown at home.

The experimental station in connection with the Cornell University has taken a very prominent position in teaching the principles of cultivation, and in furnishing the opportunity of putting them into practice. Its bul-

letins have consequently been read with interest. The present volume is, to a large extent, based on these bulletins, and will be valued accordingly. Within its prescribed limitations the reader will find an epitome of the most advanced views on the culture of plants. Much of the book is taken up with technical details, which need only be referred to here; but we may refer the reader especially to the paragraph on the use of the electric light for forcing-houses, at p. 80. It is very short, but contains a great deal of information which will be serviceable to those who are contemplating further experiment. The results obtained are substantially the same as observed on different plants by the late Sir William Siemens; but, if we remember rightly, the time required to mature the crops and ripen the fruit at Tonbridge Wells was much less than has been ascertained to be necessary in the United States. Probably the discrepancy is easily to be explained by differences of circumstances. "It will be found profitable," says Prof. Bailey, "to use the electric light for plant-growing, if at all, only in the three or four months of midwinter." A general summary of the contents and a good index render the volume easy to consult.

The Birds of Our Country. By H. E. Stewart, B.A. Pp. viii + 397. (London: Digby, Long, and Co., 1897.)

THE Natural History Societies of our public schools should add this book to their libraries. It contains brief illustrated descriptions of all the birds likely to be seen in the British Isles, and will afford young observers a means of obtaining interesting information on bird-life. We hope the book will not add to the number of indiscriminate collectors. The author refers to "many an enjoyable day spent rambling through the [New] Forest in search of something which might be deemed worthy of a place in our collections, and possibly of a paragraph in a natural history paper to be read at one of our social evenings afterwards." The "takes" of such rambles are also mentioned. It would have been well if a word or two of advice had been added on the folly of collecting specimens without studying them. The young collectors into whose hands the book will probably fall, should be told distinctly that their hobby must be exercised with discretion.

The Pamirs and the Source of the Oxus. By the Right Hon. George N. Curzon, M.P. Pp. 83. (London: The Royal Geographical Society.)

WE are glad that this notable contribution to geography has been reprinted from the *Geographical Journal*, and published as a volume handy in size and attractive in format. For ages the Pamirs and the Oxus have impressed the imagination of humanity, and though fancy has now to give way to facts, "the mystery and romance of the fabled Roof of the World having been extinguished by the theodolite and the compass, and superseded by the accurate delineation of scientific maps," this celebrated region is full of interest—how full can only be understood by those who read the present monograph, which happily combines historical records with personal experience.

The Journal of the Essex Technical Laboratories. Vol. ii. Edited by David Houston. Pp. 340. (Chelmsford: County Technical Laboratories, 1896.)

A HELPFUL *Bulletin* is published monthly by the Technical Instruction Committee of the Essex County Council. The bulletins issued from October 1895 to September 1896 are here brought together, and published in the form of a handy volume. Notes and articles on most branches of biological knowledge are included in the volume; and also a short course of lessons in elementary chemistry. Many of the articles are well illustrated, and they will all assist in making the agriculturist and horticulturist realise the value of scientific work.