

view, it may happen that events in China will upset it, and that a connecting link between Burma and Yunnan by means of a railway may become a necessity.

The second point to which we desire to draw attention is the chapter on Burma's forest wealth. It is but natural that this is treated in a very full way, and we recommend its perusal to those who have up to date been hostile to forest conservancy in India and Burma. More especially Dr. Nisbet describes in full detail the great pains which are taken in ascertaining the full extent of existing rights and privileges, and the minuteness with which the requirements of the local population are provided, before any forest tract is declared a permanent State forest.

On the whole Dr. Nisbet's work may be called a very storehouse of information on Burma, to collect which must have taken him many years. If we were to find any faults with the work they would be that the author's facile pen has led him into too great a length, and that there are numerous repetitions in it. Still, those who have leisure to read the two handsome volumes will be richly rewarded for their trouble. They will find in it, not only a minute description of an interesting people, but also a record of the admirable manner in which civilised methods of administration have been successfully introduced in this far-away country in a remarkably short space of time.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*The Birds of South Africa.* By A. C. Stark, completed by W. L. Sclater. Vol. ii. Illustrated. Pp. xiv + 324. (London: Porter, 1901.) Price 21s. net.

IN a review of the first volume of this work (part of the "Fauna of South Africa"), published in our columns soon after its appearance, reference was made to the tragic death of its author, Dr. Stark, in Ladysmith, at the commencement of the siege. The first volume was practically completed by the author before his death; but of its successor the manuscript was left (partly stored at Durban and partly at Ladysmith) in a state which rendered necessary a considerable amount of revision and addition on the part of whoever undertook the task of editing and preparing it for press. By desire of Dr. Stark's executors this labour was entrusted to Mr. W. L. Sclater, the editor of the series to which the volume belongs, who is to be congratulated on having carried out so successfully an undertaking of no ordinary difficulty. For, as all those who have tried it are well aware, the completion of another man's unfinished work is often a more difficult task than to write a volume *de novo*. As this volume may be regarded as in some respects a memorial of the lamented author, his portrait is very appropriately introduced as a frontispiece.

Since the general plan of the work was somewhat fully referred to in our previous notice, and as in this respect the present volume agrees in all essential points with its predecessor, nothing need be added on the present occasion. This volume continues the description of the perching-birds, taking up the thread at the shrikes, and ending with the swallows and pittas, so that the African representatives of five families are discussed. The editor has been fortunate in again securing the services of Mr. H. Grönvold as artist; and, needless to say, the illustrations are exquisitely drawn, and at the same time true to nature. Attention may be especially directed to the figure of puff-birds and their nest, which is based on

a photograph taken near Grahamstown, and forms a charming bit of bird-life. One illustration alone—that of rock-thrushes and their nest, on p. 182—has been reproduced direct from a photograph. A comparison of this with the above-mentioned picture by Mr. Grönvold leaves little doubt where the superiority lies. In addition to the text-figures this volume contains a map which should prove of much value to the students of the South African fauna.

While congratulating Mr. Sclater on the completion of this much of his arduous task, we may take the opportunity of mentioning that, with the help of Dr. Stark's note-books and papers he hopes ere long to bring out the two remaining volumes of the "Birds of South Africa."

R. L.

*Elementary Telephotography.* By Ernest Marriage. Pp. xxix + 117. (London: Iliffe and Sons, Ltd., 1901.)

THE telephotographic lens is becoming more generally used every day, so that the publication of a good elementary treatise on the chief advantages of its employment and on its successful manipulation will be received with favour. The opening chapters describe, in simple and clear language, backed up with excellent illustrations, the optical arrangements of telephotographic lenses, the different types of such lenses, the work for which they are specially adapted, and the form of camera and accessories that experience has shown to be the most satisfactory. The author lays great stress on the importance of rigidity in both the camera and support, so the beginner should take special note of this fundamental consideration.

After a chapter on the general applications of telephotography, the author gives the beginner some excellent advice in separate chapters on the special branches of the subject, namely, architecture, portraiture and the telephotography of animals, illustrating the chief points with reproductions from photographs.

Last, but by no means least in importance, are two chapters on exposure and development and useful tables. In the former it is shown, among other things, that with a little trouble the most difficult part of the whole manipulation, namely, "correct exposure of the negative," may be successfully overcome by a simple calculation, this method being rendered more practicable and easy by the use of the tables given in the latter chapter.

It may be mentioned in conclusion that the book is neatly printed on good stout paper and the illustrations are well reproduced, so that with these extra points in its favour it will form a useful addition to photographic literature.

*The British Journal Photographic Almanac, 1902.* Edited by Thomas Bedding. Pp. 1560. (London: Henry Greenwood and Co., 1901.) Price 1s.

THE forty-first yearly issue of this almanac is well up to the standard of former years, and contains a mine of useful information for both the amateur and the professional photographer.

Among the principal contents we notice an interesting, and what should prove a useful, article on "Introductory Notes on Tele-photography," by the editor, which brings together the more important facts on the subject. This is followed by a series of short contributions on practical subjects by prominent photographers, by numerous notes and suggestions of the year, and by an epitome of the advances made in 1901. The almanac portion of the volume and tables will be found as useful as ever, and the reader will find the collection of photographic formulæ and recipes, list of photographic societies, and other miscellaneous tables and information very complete.

In addition to the 600 pages of text, those devoted