OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Revival of Phrenology. The Mental Functions of the Brain. By Bernard Hollander, M.D., &c. Pp. xviii + 512; illustrated. (London: Grant Richards. 1901.) Price 21*s.* net.

ACCORDING to Dr. Hollander, the connection between mind and brain has long been waiting for a discoverer, and he is determined that it shall wait no longer. "The present work aims at clearing up the mystery of the fundamental psychical functions and their localisation in the brain. It is the first work on the subject since the dawn of modern scientific research." We expect that an author who claims to clear up a mystery and to write the first work on a subject since the dawn of scientific research should at least be acquainted with the present position of the science with which he deals, but we do not find that Dr. Hollander has satisfied this preliminary requirement. The very title of his book indicates that he is not before, but behind the age. Mental phenomena are not functions of the brain in the modern medical meaning of the term "function," and if by "the fundamental psychical functions" Dr. Hollander means the primary divisions of mind as recognised in modern psychology, then we cannot find evidence in his book that he knows what they are. "Most men," he says, "regard mind as though the term were equivalent to intellect and did not include the feelings and fundamental impulses." "The great majority hold mind to be equivalent to intellect." We do not know whether by "most men" and "the great majority" Dr. Hollander means the majority of the whole population, or of the whole male population, or of neurologists, or of psychologists. If he means either of the two former, he is probably wrong. If he means either of the two latter, he is certainly wrong; so wrong that it is difficult to believe that he has opened a book on psychology that has been published within the last half-century. When a writer presumes to lecture the whole world of psychologists in the tone of the Supreme Being addressing a group of blackbeetles, he should at least make himself acquainted with the rudiments of their terminology. He would then avoid speaking of "faculties" as "forces." He would not say that "satisfaction, discontent, desire, fear, anger . . . &c., are so many states of our internal organisation which . . . exist . . . without consciousness . . . being necessary."

"The data amassed by the author," Dr. Hollander modestly asserts, "are so considerable as to open up quite a new field for research." These data consist of more than 800 cases, which are alleged to illustrate the connection between some special brain-area and some special phase of mind. The first group are "cases of melancholia due to injury to the central parietal area." A number of cases of injury to the parietal region are adduced, but in many of them there is little or no evidence of melancholia. Whenever, in the reports, the word depression is used, Dr. Hollander accepts it as the equivalent of melancholia, though it is quite obvious that in many cases it means hebetude, stupor or coma. Melancholia is attributed to blows on the parietal region that were inflicted four years, five years, six years, fourteen years, seventeen years before the patient came under treatment. Of the innumerable multitudes of cases of lesion of the parietal region without any sign of melancholia resulting, not a word is said. This is not scientific investigation; it is special pleading. Dr. Hollander pleads that in view of the important bearing of his facts upon the entire development of medical science, on the study and treatment of lunacy, on the education of the young, &c., the evidence and statements may be received willingly and in fair spirit, however critical. We have endeavoured to comply with his request. We have weighed his evidence, and it seems to be of the same value as his statements.

St. Kilda and its Birds. By J. Wiglesworth. Pp. 69; illustrated. (Liverpool: C. Tinling and Co., 1903.)

ON his return from an ornithological trip to the St. Kilda group last summer, Dr. Wiglesworth delivered before the Liverpool Biological Society a lecture on these islands and their inhabitants—human and otherwise. This lecture has been published in the volume before us, and although the author has little or nothing absolutely new to tell, he has undoubtedly succeeded in producing a very interesting work, which ought to be invaluable to all future tourists in these islands. Although the extension of the breeding range of the fulmar-petrel to the Shetlands has deprived St. Kilda of one of its claims to preeminence, yet it possesses an absolutely peculiar form of wren as well as two mice of its own, while it is also one of the chief breeding-places of the fork-tailed petrel. Moreover, its breeding-list of other sea-birds is comparatively large, so that the island possesses especial interest for the ornithologist and egg-collector. Unfortunately, the latter individual has of late years made himself somewhat too conspicuous, and "when it comes to dealers giving unlimited orders for fork-tailed petrels' eggs at prices which set the whole male population of the island on the alert to dig out every petrel-burrow they can possibly come across, one cannot but feel considerable anxiety as to the future of this interesting species." High prices are likewise paid for the eggs of the St. Kilda wren, of which large numbers are exported. It would therefore seem that the island stands in urgent need of the special attention of those interested in bird preservation. One of the features of St. Kilda is the number of species of petrels by which it is inhabited, while not less noteworthy are the hordes of puffins which swarm over its grassy slopes, and tenant almost every available nook amongst the rocks and boulders.

But it is not only for its birds and mice that the St. Kilda group has a special claim on the interest of the naturalist. One of the islets, Soa, or Soay, is remarkable as being the only locality in Great Britain where sheep exist in a wild condition. It appears that in the latter part of the eighteenth century the owner of St. Kilda laid claim to one out of every seven sheep born in the main island. These sheep were carried to Soa, where, in the absence of anyone to look after them, they ran completely wild. And by this accident has been preserved to our own time the very small and peculiar breed of sheep which was probably once common to St. Kilda and most of the western islands, but has everywhere, except in Soa, been modified by the introduction of other breeds. Most of these sheep are light brown in colour, although a few are almost black, and others nearly white. They are so wild and shy that they cannot be approached within 100 yards, except by careful stalking, while their activity and speed are such that they cannot be hunted down by the dogs of the islanders. A ewe of this sheep, as well as the skull of a ram, are exhibited in the Natural History Museum. R. L.

The Principal Species of Wood. By C. H. Snow, C.E., Sc.D. Pp. xi + 203. (New York: Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1903.) Price 15*s.* net.

IN producing this work the author has evidently spared himself no pains to collect a vast amount of statistics concerning the genera and species with which he deals. The work is also profusely illustrated by plates, and these, along with the general equipment of the book, reflect credit on artist and publishers. Tabulated statements concerning the different species are given, and contain data such as modulus of elasticity and rupture of wood, as well as notes on its various struc-