

essential features of an American foxhound, while among pointers (which are special favourites in America) and setters a greater proportion of energy to weight is the feature at which the breeder aims. The admirable reproductions from photographs with which the excellent little volume is illustrated fully bear out the author's statement as to the marked physical differences of the dogs he describes from their European prototypes. R. L.

*Histoire de l'Habillement et de Parure.* Bibliothèque scientifique internationale. By Louis Bourdeau. Pp. 302. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1904.) Price 6 francs.

THE history of clothing and of ornaments is an important aspect of the history of culture, and it well deserves independent treatment. M. Bourdeau deals with the primitive articles of clothing, skins, natural vegetable products and the like, the method of working these, and the fabrication of textiles and the methods of colouring them. The making and wearing of clothes are briefly noted with the history of costumes, in which are included dressing the hair, head, hand and foot gear, umbrellas and jewellery. The scheme is good enough, but, as the work is confined to 299 pages, the treatment is necessarily slight, for the author begins with Genesis, quotes Greek and Roman authors, and, glancing at intermediate periods, finishes with modern industrialism, making allusions by the way to non-European peoples of varied culture.

The book can be recommended to those who require a light, popular sketch of the history of clothing—the serious student will, however, be disappointed. The author's knowledge of ethnology appears to be extremely limited, judging from the imperfect statements in, and the omissions from the book; for example, the paper mulberry tree is not mentioned; he is unaware of the practice of the Roman Catholic women of Bosnia and Herzegovina to tattoo themselves so as to be further discriminated from the followers of Islam; like most other writers, he does not distinguish between the Maori *moko* and ordinary tattooing. No mention is made of the production of patterns in cotton fabrics by tightly tying several strands of a warp in different places and then dyeing the whole, which technique is carried to a high degree of excellence by many Malayan peoples; nor is the analogous method of waxing fabrics and dyeing the unwaxed portions referred to. Melanesians are confounded with Polynesians (p. 229), an error as great as speaking of Negroes as Europeans. But it is in the section on ornaments that the author is weakest. It is now well recognised that what are generally spoken of as "ornaments" are worn by nature-folk and by barbarians for magical purposes as prophylactics to ward off evil, to ensure good luck generally, or to produce some definite result. This aspect is entirely ignored by M. Bourdeau. Many "ornaments" have the value of currency, but probably very few are worn solely for purposes of adornment. There are no illustrations, and, as is usual with this class of book, there is no index.

*The Ether: Some Notes on its Place in Nature.* By John Rhind. Pp. viii+87. (Wick: W. Roe, 1904.) LIKE the mythical Dog Diamond, Mr. Rhind little knows what mischief he is doing. If his amendments of accepted beliefs were adopted, the well built doctrine of science would become no better than

"a tale told by an idiot,  
"Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Mr. Rhind's knowledge of principles goes no deeper, apparently, than the most popular utterances of popular

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lecturers and writers, and these are subject to amendment *ad libitum* to square with "common sense." With this slender equipment he does not falter to lay violent hands upon the theory of gravitation, the conservation of matter, and the nebular hypothesis.

A single example (p. 45) of the method will suffice:—"We would suggest that the earth may have the power of converting, or in other words of condensing, the ether into oxygen, which is the principal agent in sustaining life. The sun's atmosphere being so much more powerful, will be able to condense this element into an electric fluid which, being sent to his planets, gives them light and heat, and in combination with the oxygen of our earth and its atmosphere completes the power, if not of introducing life, of maintaining the life that already exists on our globe." It seems that (p. 48) "ether, oxygen and the electric fluid are only different manifestations of the same substance." The moral of the book appears to be that if science were adequately taught us at school, a gentleman with an active and spontaneous interest in natural phenomena need not in after life go so pitifully astray.

*A Safe Course in Experimental Chemistry.* By W. T. Boone. University Tutorial Series. Pp. vi+180. (London: W. B. Clive, 1904.) Price 2s.

THIS little volume is quite up to the standard of the best of modern elementary books on practical chemistry. It clearly embodies the experience of a thoughtful teacher who has made his students work and think accurately, and is not without originality of treatment in the arrangement and character of the exercises.

It has the fault of all experimental books which ignore the presence of the teacher, inasmuch as it is forced to supply wordy and involved descriptions of such simple operations as, for example, removing a stopper when using a stoppered bottle, which a demonstration would make clear in a moment.

One of the "rules for a chemical laboratory" laid down at the beginning of the book—"do not use more of a reagent than is necessary"—raises an obvious question which might be difficult to answer at this early stage, and is rather like telling a child not to eat too much.

The use of the word "safe" in the title conveys a flavour of quackery, which is a little unfortunate in a book of much solid merit. The illustrations serve their purpose, no doubt, but the handiwork of the amateur is a little too evident.

Apart from these few criticisms, the book, as already stated, deserves a good reception. J. B. C.

*Catalogue of British Coleoptera.* By T. Hudson Beare, B.Sc., and H. St. J. K. Donisthorpe, F.Z.S. Pp. 51. (London: Janson, 1904.)

THIS is one of the lists which are imperatively required by students of British entomology to keep them informed from time to time as to what species are actually considered by good authorities to be found in these islands, genuine additions being allowed for, and doubtful records eliminated. The print is clear and good, and another edition on stout paper, and printed on one side only, to be used for labels or notes, has been issued. The authors' names are a sufficient guarantee for the care and accuracy with which they have apparently done their work. The list contains 3274 species admitted as indigenous, and there are supplementary lists of introduced or doubtful species. The introduced list is headed by two very conspicuous species, which, though not unfrequently taken in England, can hardly be considered indigenous. These are *Carabus auratus* (often introduced with vegetables, &c.) and *Calosoma sycophanta*.