

consulted in this connection. The treatment of the families is necessarily brief, but a good working basis for amplification is provided, and the last four sections, dealing with the anomalous order of Deuteromycetes, will be particularly useful to economic botanists.

The author claims to have provided an introduction to new lines of research. This is modestly expressed, for it will be found that, besides furnishing such an introduction, he has performed the additional service of discussing in a broad spirit their significance and interpretation; further, he has touched on most aspects of fungology, although not on the association of fungi in lichens, and has outlined the taxonomy of the group with a view to practical utility. In fact, Mr. Masee has supplied a serviceable and much required text-book on the present state of fungology which is embellished with numerous artistic and practical illustrations.

Douglas English Nature Books. No. 1, One Hundred Photographs from Life of the Shrew-mouse, the Dormouse, the House-mouse, the Field-mouse, the Meadow-mouse, and the Harvest-mouse. By Douglas English. Pp. 93. No. 2, *One Hundred Photographs of Bird Life.* By R. B. Lodge. Pp. 95. Illustrated. (London: S. H. Bousfield and Co., Ltd., 1907.) Price 1s. each.

SINCE no less than six-four out of the ninety odd pages which go to form each of these volumes are devoted to reproductions of photographs of mammals and birds in their native haunts, the lover of animal life has a rich entertainment at a very small cost. As we learn from the introduction to the first, this series of books is intended for the pocket of the field-naturalist, and it is hoped that while the illustrations (which are almost beyond praise) will aid in the recognition of species, the letterpress will be of service alike in confirming previous observations and in suggesting new lines of inquiry. The series is intended to be comprehensive in scope. In the first part, which is devoted to some of the smaller British mammals, it is satisfactory to find a reversion to the use of popular names like water-rat, field-mouse, and shrew-mouse, in place of the spurious terms water-vole, field-vole, and shrew. In the second number Mr. R. B. Lodge gives one hundred photographs of bird-life, with appropriate notes. Since, however, the illustrations include species like the glossy ibis, little egret, and spoon-bill, it is rather difficult to see what they have to do with the ordinary field-naturalist. R. L.

Gold Mining Machinery: its Selection, Arrangement, and Installation. By W. H. Tinney. Pp. xii+308. (London: Crosby Lockwood and Son, 1906.)

THIS book professes to be "a practical handbook for the use of mine-managers and engineers" to assist them in the "selection, arrangement and installation" of gold-mining machinery. Such a work properly executed would doubtless perform a useful function; but Mr. Tinney's production fails in its purpose for it is out of date and superficial. For example, winding machinery, which should surely be one of the most important sections of a work such as this purports to be, is dealt with in seven pages of letterpress, and, as may well be imagined, the modern high-class winding engine finds no place in it. Deep winding, the greatest problem at present engaging the attention of the mechanical engineers of the Witwatersrand goldfields, is passed over in silence. Again, the electrical transmission of power, a subject of vast and ever-growing importance to the miner, is dismissed in four pages of letterpress.

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It may well be asked, of what are the 300 pages of this book made up? The work appears to consist of a jumble of extracts from the note-book of the author (whose experience of the gold mines of the world would seem to have been somewhat limited), together with specifications of machinery makers, illustrated by a selection of photographs from their catalogues. To this *olla podrida* has been added a number of workshop receipts and various elementary tables, such as "the sizes of drawing paper," and formulæ for calculating the areas of a circle, a triangle, a square, &c., and the volume of a cube, a sphere, a cylinder, &c. One of the tables gives the "names, common and chemical," of a list of substances, beginning with "aqua fortis" and ending with oil of vitriol, and including such rare materials as chalk, iron pyrites, rust, slaked lime, salt, and soda.

Memories of the Months. Fourth Series. By the Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., F.R.S. Pp. x+319. (London: Edward Arnold, 1907.) Price 7s. 6d.

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL'S new volume will be welcomed by the many readers of his previous series of "memories." The ability to combine literary grace with scientific accuracy, and the power to interest and at the same time to impart useful information, is unfortunately rare, and we are grateful to Sir Herbert Maxwell for placing his gifts at the disposal of a large audience by means of these pages. Readers will be able to share with the author of the memories his "delight in the open field, the woodland, and the riverside," and if they prove willing disciples they may in time experience the joy of original observation for themselves—at least they will learn to study and appreciate the boundless beauties of nature.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

On the Relationship of Lemurs and Apes.

ACCORDING to the report published in NATURE (April 11, p. 574), Mr. H. F. Standing recently presented a memoir to the Zoological Society in which he described certain extinct lemuroids from Madagascar as being, "in many respects, intermediate between existing lemurs and monkeys," and, as the result of this interpretation of the anatomy of these animals, he expressed the view "that it was not possible to separate the Primates, as hitherto, into the two suborders Lemuroidea and Anthroipoidea."

At the suggestion of Dr. A. Smith Woodward, Mr. Standing kindly sent me casts of the cranial cavities of three of the Prosimiæ found by him, and in January last I sent him a report in which their outstanding features and the inferences to be drawn from them were set forth. My conclusions not only lent no support to the above-quoted summary of Mr. Standing's opinions, but are in direct conflict with them. But I would not have deemed it necessary to repeat these statements, already made in my report (which I presume will be published along with Mr. Standing's memoir), had it not been for the fact that, since my report was written, further investigations (chiefly histological studies in the structure of the neopallium of *Tarsius*, *Loris*, *Nycticebus*, *Perodicticus*, *Lemur*, *Propithecus*, *Hapale*, *Cebus*, and *Cercopithecus*) have revealed important facts that enable me to speak more emphatically on the old problem once more raised