

index throws no light on the subject. What is the structure of the skin? A page near the end of the book, without a single figure to explain the heavy vocabulary, is all we are vouchsafed. The treatment of histological and embryological data is almost useless. A drawing of a sagittal section of the head raised hopes of a description of the course taken by the air in the act of breathing, but on examination the drawing itself is seen to be incomplete and to illustrate the tear-duct.

What is wanted in a modern monograph is not exclusively anatomical study of individual bones and muscles, expressed in a deterrent vocabulary, but a treatment seasoned with morphological and physiological "salt." This series is intended to help beginners, but a more strange method of doing so it would be hard to imagine. We trust that future volumes of this collection of monographs will be planned with a little more insight into the needs of biological students, and written with some feeling of the beauty as well as of the complexity of the subject.

*The Irish Fairy Book.* By Alfred Perceval Graves. Illustrated by George Denham. Pp. xv+355. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, n.d.) Price 6s.

THERE is a greater demand for fairy books than there is for works on folklore, and the readers differ greatly in taste and requirements. Some fairy books are worse than useless to the folklorist, books in which the authors treat their sources in a thoroughly irresponsible fashion. On the other hand, those who could handle such materials discreetly, learnedly, and reverently cannot be induced to write fairy books. But such books must be written, and Mr. Graves has produced one which is in every respect commendable.

Apart from a helpful preface and one short poem by the author or compiler, the book is a symposium by Irish writers of folk-tales, and a bare list of the writers' names shows the comprehensiveness of the work:—O'Grady, Kennedy, Allingham, Croker, Gregory, Zeats, O'Looney, Ewing, Ferguson, Joyce, McClintock, Carleton, Campbell, O'Kearney, Lover, Curtin, Wilde, Le Fann, Mangan, Hyde, Sigerson, Hull, Larminie, Boyd, Hopper, with Tennyson's "Voyage of Maeldune" as a fitting conclusion. The book is just what it was intended to be—delightful reading.

Many of the tales are in proper form for scientific examination, being evidently faithful records of oral traditions, which, with Mr. Denham's apt illustrations, are as "readable" as any in the collection. All the stories are replete with useful facts of folklore. The frequent identification of Druidism with magic is very impressive. As in Welsh folklore, the fairies are in high glee at the seasonal festivals. Puck, for instance, is definitely associated with November. Lugnassed, Lug's marriage—the old name for the August festival—survives in dialect as "Lunacy day in harvest." That the framework of the tale is the calendar is in most cases fairly obvious, and one regrets that the compiler offers the reader no clue to such an interpretation in a preface where other theories are mentioned.

JOHN GRIFFITH.

*Space and Spirit.* A Commentary upon the Work of Sir Oliver Lodge entitled "Life and Matter." By R. A. Kennedy. Pp. 64. (London: C. Knight and Co., Ltd., 1909.) Price 1s. 6d. net.

THIS is a commentary on Sir Oliver Lodge's work, "Life and Matter," which was written primarily as a counterblast to Haeckel's "Riddle of the Universe." Its author agrees with Sir Oliver regarding Spirit

as the ultimate Reality, of which the Universe is a manifestation; but he differs on a few points of detail. Moreover, though Spirit is the "unknown reality," there is another irresolvable Absolute, viz. Space. There is a Spacial universe and a Spiritual universe. The former may only be a branch or out-leaking of the latter, but the two cannot be identified. Mr. Kennedy is, therefore, not a monist, even of the spiritual variety; he recognises two entities, and not merely two aspects of the same substance. (But is it not self-contradictory to speak of *two universes*?)

The most vital detail on which the author disagrees with Sir Oliver Lodge is that of the nature of Life. Sir Oliver, combating Haeckel's explanation of life (which gets out of the difficulty by attributing a kind of life to the atoms, in fine *petitio principii* style), Sir Oliver, we say, supposes life to flow into the carbohydrate molecule from a supernal life-reservoir, as soon as the molecule becomes sufficiently complex to accommodate it or to "let through" the properties which life can manifest. The materialist's view is that the complex aggregate has *generated* the life; he does not stop to ask what generated the complex aggregate; and Mr. Kennedy thinks that Sir Oliver is rather similarly inclined to leave the formation of the organism in its early stages to chance. "The right view surely is that life is in operation from first to last, and in fact generates the organism."

In discussions of these questions which lie on the borderland between science and philosophy, it is often apparent that divergences are verbal only. It is probably thus to some extent in the present instance. Certainly, life does not manifest itself except through complex molecules, but Sir Oliver does not leave the formation of those molecules to "chance." Rather, he would say that all matter allows intelligence and will to shine through—somewhat as taught by two men as different as Shelley and Prof. William James—from the spiritual sun which is Reality. But he is still right and consistent in denying Haeckel's assumption that atomic forces explain life, however aggregated.

The booklet is well written, and the argument is extremely acute and suggestive throughout.

*Introduction to the Preparation of Organic Compounds.* By Prof. Emil Fischer. Translated by Dr. R. V. Stanford. Pp. xix+175. (London: Williams and Norgate, 1909.) Price 4s. net.

EMIL FISCHER'S "Anleitung zur Darstellung organischer Präparate" first appeared in 1883 in the form of autograph copies for the use of his students in the Erlangen Laboratory, and represents the first published introduction to the practical study of organic chemistry. The increasing demand led to its appearance in book form in 1887, and from it an English translation was made by A. Kling, which reached a second edition in 1895.

The book has apparently been more popular in Germany than here, for the present translation is made from the eighth German edition. This is no doubt due to the publication of more comprehensive and elaborate treatises on the same subject by English writers. But whatever the cause, the modest proportions of the volume before us do not diminish its practical value, as both teachers and students who have used it will readily admit. In this last English edition a second part is added, which is drawn from the author's researches on physiological chemistry, and is intended more especially for medical and biological students. The book is neatly bound, and printed in good type.

J. B. C.