

and the maps are distinctly valuable, but there are certain difficulties with regard to this method of presenting the facts of geography. In the first place, the statistics given should be averages for a series of years, and diagrams should show the proportions of their various parts; the diagrams relating to the production of cereals, &c., give no statement of the proportions in which the different areas contribute to the total production. Further, maps without some other form of data are apt to be misleading; for example, the traditional English idea of Canada is that it is a producer of wheat. The fact that Canada produces more oats than wheat does not appear from the maps in the atlas. Oats are, curiously enough, omitted from the economic map of the United States and Canada. Similarly, in regard to the maps of minerals, such as iron and coal, it would be distinctly useful if some indication were added as to the areas in which the mineral deposits are being worked; for example, coal and iron are shown in India, but there is no indication that practically the only mining carried on in India is for coal.

The three additions to the Cambridge County Geographies, "Devonshire" (6), "Dorset" (7), and "Derbyshire" (8), are of the already familiar type of descriptive geography which this series illustrates. In "Derbyshire," Mr. Arnold-Bemrose exemplifies one of the best features of the series. He tells the story of the rocks, and shows the relation between these and the surface features, the climate, and the occupations of the people. His facts range from the Derwent Valley water scheme to the life of early man in these islands as inferred from the deposits in the caverns. In the other volumes, the authors deal with the coastal features of the counties and with the changes in the outline of the coast due to sea encroachments. These books are storehouses of facts of many kinds, and will be useful as reference books in school and other libraries. It may be urged that both in the text and in the appendix the statistics should be average values for a series of recent years.

Mr. Webb's "Asia" (8) is systematic but not regional; for example, the existence of the Thar desert is explained out of all connection with the desert belt immediately to the west; again, in the case of Japan, the large proportion of the country which is forested is ignored, and emphasis is laid upon the growth of rice, "for which the climate is specially suitable," and tea.

B. C. W.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Catálogo Sistemático y Descriptivo de las Aves de la República Argentina.* By Roberto Dabbene. Tomo Primero. *Anales Museo Nacional de Buenos Aires*, serie 3, vol. xi., pp. xiv+513+map. (Buenos Aires: 1910.)

In this work, of which the present portion occupies the whole of the serial volume in which it appears, the author proposes to do for the birds of Argentina that which Mr. Ridgway is accomplishing for those of North and Central America. To a great extent the two works will, when completed, cover the whole of the South American avifauna, for, owing to the im-

perfect information with regard to the zoology of the outlying provinces of the Argentine Republic, Dr. Dabbene has felt himself compelled to include in his catalogue the birds of the south of Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay, and of the frontier districts of Chile and Uruguay.

The author has in the main followed the classification adopted in the British Museum "Hand-list of Birds," although for the Passerines he had to rely on the Museum "Catalogue," as the last part of the former work did not reach him in time to be used. This is a pity, as Dr. Sharpe made certain amendments in the arrangement of the orders which might have been advantageously followed. The present volume commences with a general account of the structure of birds, illustrated with text-figures, which, although somewhat crude, serve their purpose well, the whole account being well up to date. Ending with a bibliography, this section is followed by one on the distribution of Argentine birds, which is perhaps the most important part of the whole volume; the geographical ranges of the various species being shown in tabular form. The volume concludes with a somewhat heavy list of addenda and corrigenda (in addition to an extensive list of errata in the preliminary portion), followed by several copious indexes. The systematic part of the work will, it may be presumed, commence in the next volume, and will afford a better criterion for testing the value of the undertaking than is afforded by the one in hand.

R. L.

*Land and Fresh-water Mollusca of India, &c.* By Lieut.-Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen. Vol. ii., part xi. Pp. 239-310; cxviii-cxxxiii. plates. (London: Taylor and Francis, 1910.)

MALACOLOGISTS will gladly welcome a further instalment of this valuable work from the pen of that nestor of Indian conchology, Col. Godwin-Austen. Like the previous part (*NATURE*, vol. lxxvi., 1907, p. 244), this contains further descriptions of forms, some of them new, belonging to the families Zonitidæ and Endodontidæ.

In 1907, as we pointed out, the author transferred the genera *Austenia*, *Girasia*, and *Cryptosoma* from the Heliocarioninæ to the Macrochlamyinae. Next year, in the "Fauna of India: Mollusca," and now again in the part under notice, these genera reappear in their old position. These changing views are not so much to be wondered at when the extreme difficulty of reducing this complex and puzzling group to order is taken into consideration. Their classification depends on anatomical differences which are by no means so well defined by nature as one could desire. The apparent introduction, however, of one genus into two subfamilies is due to an unfortunate misprint on p. 272, where *Austenia* appears for *Euaustenia*.

All the Endodontidæ described belong to the genus *Pupisoma*, comprising forms included by the early writers in the genus *Pupa*.

A reference to the Mauritian species of *Macrochlamys* (*Proc. Malac. Soc.*, vol. vi., 1905, p. 320), which the author now refers to *M. renitens*, Morelet, concludes the number.

The plates, which are faithful reproductions of the author's vigorous and effective drawings, call as such for commendation.

*Jack's Insects.* By Edward Selous. With forty-four illustrations by J. A. Shepherd. Pp. xiii+379. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6s.

ALL we need say about this book is that Jack and his sister fall asleep over a book of natural history, and dream that they are talking to the insects, &c., to which it relates.