

tion, relying presumably on the title as a sufficient indication of his aim. He deals with the practice rather than the underlying principles of photography, though these and historical details are not altogether neglected. He does not repeat such instructions as are enclosed in every box of plates or packet of paper, and refers without hesitation to various proprietary articles and to expense. As might be expected, the author regards his subject from the point of view of the present-day beginner, and it is in this that the volume differs from the older primers. There is no attempt to indicate methods of manufacture, because no one at the present time prepares his own sensitive material. There are no tables of exposures necessary in various circumstances, because "here the exposure meter or guide comes into play." Films are not treated of as if they almost needed an apology for their introduction, nor hand-cameras as if they were inferior in almost everything else but price to the instruments supported in a more stable manner.

Although no two teachers would make exactly the same selection of processes as being best suited to the beginner, and making all due allowance for personal preference, we are rather surprised that the common mercury and ammonia method of intensification is not referred to, the two methods recommended being the uranium and the silver cyanide methods, both of which are more troublesome than the other. The statement that plates are made orthochromatic "by bathing ordinary plates in a colour sensitiser" is likely to mislead the beginner in this detail of manufacture. Of course, the sensitiser is added to the emulsion, bathing being quite an exceptional process. There are a few matters, particularly in the optical part, that might be revised with advantage, but these are not of prime importance. The chapter on "Telephotography" explains the manner of using the special lenses constructed for this purpose in a more simple and at the same time complete manner than we have ever seen elsewhere.

#### STARS IN SEASON.

*Round the Year with the Stars.* By Garrett P. Serviss. Pp. 147. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers, 1910.) Price 5s. net.

THIS volume takes quite a different line from that of "Astronomy with the Naked Eye," by the same author, the points of overlap between the two volumes being infrequent and unimportant. In the earlier work Mr. Serviss described the legends and myths which so profusely surround the old constellations; in the present volume he endeavours to cultivate a personal knowledge with the chief units of the celestial pageant.

In the four principal chapters (i.-iv.), the sky is taken at each of the four seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—and is so described that the beginner may locate, with but little trouble, the constellations and their *lucidae*. This may sound rather a hackneyed procedure, but in the hands of Mr. Serviss, whose poetic enthusiasm for the stars is, on every page, as obvious as his wide knowledge, it becomes most interesting and instructive. For example, he

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introduces (p. 25) a discussion as to the most suitable season for the commencement of the year, deprecating January, when nature is asleep, as compared with spring, when the glorious re-birth takes place. A reference to Sir Norman Lockyer's researches on the different years would have further elucidated the subject. The fact that our constellation Virgo is similarly named in ten different and ancient languages is the type of fact that makes the work so interesting. But the physical attributes of the individual objects are not neglected; the powder of science is judiciously mixed with the jam of poetic mythology. The description of Spica's magnitude, intrinsic brilliance, and enormous velocity, given on p. 31, should be appreciated by the least scientifically inclined sky-gazer. It is helpful to find the common, countryside names given beside the Arabic names and the Bayer Greek letter.

In discussing the colours of companions, the author is, we believe, rather too dogmatic when he states definitely (p. 89) that the complementary colours are not the effect of contrast. Recent researches rather tend to contradict this, and we look upon the footnote reference to Dr. Louis Bell's work (p. 90) as a negation of the author's dictum. The four seasonal and the six ordinary charts are nicely done, but we fear they are not of sufficient size or contrast to aid the beginner in his actual observations. The appendices are very interesting, and after reading through the first, which gives the Christianised names of the constellations, the beginner will probably shudder at the possibility of having to use the genitive singular of "The Red Sea with Moses Crossing It," Schillerius's "improvement" on Eridanus. W. E. R.

#### A PAIR OF TIGER BOOKS.

- (1) *Anecdotes of Big Cats and other Beasts.* By David Wilson. Pp. viii+312. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6s.
- (2) *The Life Story of a Tiger.* By Lt.-Col. A. F. Mockler-Ferryman. Pp. iv+253. (London: A. and C. Black, 1910.) Price 3s. 6d.

IT has been suggested that one reason for the greater prevalence of man-eating tigers in India, as compared with man-eating lions in Africa, is due to the superiority in courage of the natives of the latter over most of those of the former country. Whatever may be the truth of this assertion as regards India, it most certainly does not apply to Burma, where, according to Mr. Wilson, it is a common practice for the relatives or neighbours of a person carried off by a tiger to pursue the murderer then and there, armed only with spears, or other primitive weapons, in order to recover the body. Some faint idea of the courage necessary for such a primitive expedition may be gleaned, observes the author, by anyone who tries to take a bone from a savage dog. In one instance recorded in Mr. Wilson's book four old men started to rescue the body of the granddaughter of one of the party, and succeeded in badly wounding the tiger, although with the death of one of the heroic four, and the maiming of a second. But this act of heroism is exceeded in a case where