

is startling. It almost shakes one's confidence in the author to learn that he cannot go into camp with a friend for two months without a dozen tins each of lobster and salmon, two dozen tins of sausages, and three dozen tins of fruits in syrup.

The book is well printed and beautifully illustrated.

(3) The third book on the list reveals Science in her severest mood. The aim of this conscientious piece of work is to elevate the outdoor pursuit of natural history into a serious academic study embracing each and every species of animal in relation to its environment, particularly to its organic environment, and still more particularly in its relations of interdependence with other species of animals. It may almost be regarded as embodying a formulary or ritual of the precepts and principles shown forth in the third chapter of that immortal book, "The Origin of Species."

The author adheres firmly and steadily to the great truth that all the animals of a given habitat form a definite interdependent association; but his application of the term "community" to an assemblage bound by ties so non-moral implies a cynical view of the ethics of communal life in this twentieth century. He sets out to determine by a prolonged and detailed study of a given territory—its streams, ponds, lakes, swamps, prairie, thickets, forests, etc.—the salient impressive features of its different kinds of habitat, and the character and exact specific composition of the animal-associations appertaining to each. An incidental end is to teach the sentimental person "sanity towards nature," and to show the practical man that he himself has much to find out before he can learn any animal to be a toad. So far so good; but the esoteric terminology of it all is wondrous pitiful, and there is much dressing up of old plain truths in confusing folds of majestic language—such as the following:—"The breeding instincts are the centre about which all other activities of the organism rotate, and the breeding-place is the axis of the environmental relations of the organism."

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST 21.

WHILE a number of expeditions were organised, and some were dispatched, to observe the total solar eclipse on Friday last, August 21, many were unable to take up their stations owing to the upheaval now taking place in Europe. It is, therefore, with the greatest satisfaction that we learn of at least two expeditions which successfully reached their destinations and observed the eclipse under most favourable weather conditions. The two parties were the observers from the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, consisting of Messrs. Jones and Davidson, and the expedition sent out by the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee of the Royal and Royal Astronomical Societies, composed of Fathers Cortie and O'Connor and Messrs. Atkinson and Gibbs.

According to a telegram to the *Daily Mail* of
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August 24, the Greenwich party, stationed at Minsk (Russia), observed the eclipse under good conditions in a clear sky, and photographs of both the corona and chromosphere were secured. It is stated that the form of the corona was of the intermediate type, *i.e.* of the square type, there being no large equatorial streamers or streamers in the regions of the solar poles. The corona is also stated to have been very bright. The party under Father Cortie, S.J., took up their position at Hernoesand in Sweden, and his telegram to the Royal Astronomical Society says, "Weather perfect. All operations successful. Intermediate corona."

It is interesting to mention that the Greenwich party was specially equipped for recording the ultra-violet spectrum of the chromosphere, while Father Cortie's instruments were more restricted to the yellow and red regions of the spectrum. Should the photographs turn out successful after development a wide range of the chromospheric spectrum will have been secured.

It is a great pity that Prof. Fowler was prevented from making any observations, for the interesting method of photographing the spectrum of the chromosphere for a long interval of time both before and after the total phase had every chance of being successfully tried.

ALFRED JOHN JUKES-BROWNE, F.R.S.

SELDOM has the triumph of force of will over the most serious disabilities been more strikingly illustrated than in the case of the subject of this notice. To most geologists engaged in field-work the loss of the full use of the limbs would seem to be fatal, but Jukes-Browne, in spite of all difficulties, continued his work as a geological surveyor for twenty years after the almost complete loss of his powers of locomotion.

Alfred John Browne was born near Wolverhampton in 1851; his mother was a sister of the distinguished geologist, J. Beete Jukes, whose work on the English and Irish geological surveys, and whose fame as a teacher in Dublin, are so well known; and young Browne, probably fired by his uncle's example, added the name of Jukes to his own as soon as he came of age.

After receiving his early education at Highgate, Jukes-Browne entered St. John's College, Cambridge, and, under the inspiring teaching and influence of Prof. T. G. Bonney, was able to add his name to the group of distinguished geologists who made that college famous during the last half of the nineteenth century. After a successful university career, Jukes-Browne joined the geological survey in 1874, and during the next nine years did good work in parts of East Anglia and Lincolnshire. But never, probably, a very strong man, the strenuous labours of a geological surveyor began to tell upon his health, enforcing retirement for a time.

Just at this period, however, a new and promising field of work opened out for the young geologist. The famous French palæontologist Hébert