

but the author is evidently a keen and thoughtful observer, and he has much to tell us on the reconstruction of the country. We fully agree with him that the real Egyptian of Egypt is not to be found in the towns but in the country villages, and we have been particularly interested in reading how he succeeded in training *fellahin*, or members of the peasant class, to undertake the skilled work of observation required in an experimental garden, including the use of a chemical balance and other laboratory appliances. These later parts of the book are preceded by three chapters on the ancient history of the country. Here the author has no special knowledge, but he has in the main followed sound authorities, and the outline he gives serves as an effective foil to the account of modern developments.

Among the numerous half-tone plates, reproduced from photographs, several make effective illustrations and others are of technical interest. But a few are not of a distinctive character, either in subject or treatment, and, like the not very artistic representation of the Egyptian flag on the cover, scarcely do the author justice. Perhaps we are hypercritical. But first-hand information and experience of Egypt or the East are so rarely coupled in their record with a real sense of style; when we do meet them we are, perhaps, inclined to be ungratefully impatient of accessories which tend to disguise the combination.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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An Application of the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature.

MR. GERRIT S. MILLER, JUN., has published (Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. lxxv., No. 12, November 24, 1915) the results of his investigation of a set of casts of the famous Piltdown fossils as compared with a large series of actual anthropoid and human skulls. Modern casts are made with great accuracy, and Mr. Miller is a competent and experienced authority on the skulls and teeth of mammals. He confirms the doubt already stated by many investigators as to whether or no the Piltdown lower jaw belongs to the same individual as the Piltdown skull, and goes further in the discrimination of the anthropoid character which has been obvious to all the investigators. He admits that the skull is human, but decides that the lower jaw is that of an extinct chimpanzee.

Mr. Miller's arguments are impressive, and may turn out to be convincing when they have been examined by persons who have seen the actual specimens. But Mr. Miller, who is also experienced in the application of the rules of nomenclature, has thought it necessary to name and describe a new species of chimpanzee, founding it on a jaw that he has never seen. Thus, if his opinion be sustained, the very famous Piltdown jaw, discovered by Mr. Dawson, made known to science by Mr. Dawson and Dr. A. Smith Woodward, and lodged in the British Museum, will have to be cited as the type of *Pan vetus*, Gerrit S. Miller.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL.

Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park,
London, N.W., December, 1915.

THE SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATION OF INDUSTRIES.

AN article by M. Jules Garçon on the scientific organisation of industries appears in the *Bulletin d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie nationale* for September-October, p. 383. After describing the proceedings of the deputations to Messrs. Pease and Runciman on behalf of the Royal and Chemical Societies, with representatives from the Society of Chemical Industry, the Society of Public Analysts, and the Institute of Chemistry, as the sequel to memorials presented to the Prime Minister on March 1, which have already been treated of in NATURE (May 13, p. 295), and giving a useful analysis of the various points raised, the sympathetic replies of the Ministers are alluded to. An account follows of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry at Manchester in July of this year, with reports of the addresses given by the president, Dr. M. O. Forster, Mr. Charles Carpenter, Prof. H. E. Armstrong, and Dr. Beilby. Next follows a summary of the address delivered by Sir W. Ramsay to the British Science Guild at its annual meeting on July 1, and, lastly, the details of the Committee and Advisory Council on Scientific and Industrial Research, appointed under the Board of Education.

M. Garçon sums up these various opinions and resolutions in several pages of "conclusions," which it may be useful here to indicate. The English men of science are unanimous in their view that the technical and scientific knowledge of the nation should be utilised to the greatest possible extent during the war, as well as to guarantee future progress. They demand the formation of a permanent central committee; that scientific investigation shall be encouraged; that the teaching of science in the universities shall be reformed; and that the scientific societies lend their aid to effect these changes. They demand *prompt and decided action*. The committee in connection with the Board of Education has now been appointed; it consists of men of acknowledged ability in science and industry, and is now busying itself with various items on the programme drawn up in accordance with the demands of the scientific societies. It has, besides, a very considerable annual grant to dispose of. It is the closer association of science and industry which is most to be desired, and an effort must be made to arrange university courses so that they will furnish young technologists able to experiment and to assist manufacturers. Centralisation is also imperative, for much has been lost in England for lack of concentrated effort.

M. Garçon notes that while the Société d'Encouragement, under the chairmanship of M. Léon Lindet, has done excellent work in succeeding in its attempt to induce chemical manufacturers in France to collaborate, and while in France there has been formed a "Union des Sociétés industrielles de France," also while in