

vant medical literature on the colloidal remedies now in the market. The relative value of colloidal drugs in treatment is still *sub judice*, and we can only hope that the author's optimism regarding their effects as therapeutic agents may be justified in the future. In this section we note several misprints, such as "epiditymitis," "granulama pupendi," and "leishmonnoris," to mention only a few, and the assertion that the colloidal state is the ideal one for the administration of alkaloids is contrary to the evidence afforded of the inefficacy of colloidal quinine and cocaine. In the course of the work the author makes many speculations on the rôle of colloids in physiology and on their possibilities in treatment, speculations which form food for reflection if one is unable to assimilate them all as truths.

The volume, to which Sir Malcolm Morris, whose pioneer work with colloids in skin diseases is well known, contributes an interesting and hopeful foreword, forms a helpful introduction to the subject of colloids in their relation to physiology, pharmacology, and therapeutics, and may be found useful by medical practitioners and others who desire to have a general and not too scientific account of the subject.

Nature Pictures.

Twenty-four Nature Pictures. By E. J. Detmold. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) Price 5 guineas net.

SEVERAL important works have recently been published portraying and describing the birds and mammals of the British Islands. Some of these publications are expensive, others appeal to a slender purse; but, whether the lover of such books is able or willing to spend much or only a little on animal pictures, he is fortunate in having a good deal of scope for choice, many of the works that we have seen of late being excellent in every way, combining artistic merit with scientific accuracy.

In introducing a new work on the higher animals to the British public, therefore, it behoves its author to show that it possesses some outstanding feature of merit which may serve as its *raison d'être*. The work under consideration cannot be regarded as serving any zoological purpose, since the subjects are so few in number. Hence any merit it may lay claim to must be sought from its purely artistic side. But such pictures, to be satisfactory, should be accurate in form and colour, so that, while appealing to the artistic sense, they do not at the same time offend the scientific eye; and herein the

nature-studies of Mr. Detmold are decidedly faulty.

In a series of twenty-four plates the artist portrays altogether five species of mammals, twenty birds, a fish, a crab, and a lobster. Zoologically speaking, the two crustaceans are, in our opinion, the most successful portraits in the series. The majority of mammal and bird studies are distinctly disappointing, and lead one to fear that they have been drawn from specimens supplied by some unskilful taxidermist. They seem to lack the subtle and delicate curves of beauty we are accustomed to associate with the living and healthy animal, while in some cases the colouring is faulty. The proportions, too, between the parts of the body are sometimes incorrect, even allowing for the effects of foreshortening. In the painting of plumage and pelage there are a peculiar "lumpiness" of surface and angularity of outline which are foreign to our ideas of animal form and beauty. Whether the artist has allowed himself to be carried away by the licence proverbial to his profession, or is endeavouring to formulate a new style of composition and portraiture, we cannot say, but the effect, at least from a zoological point of view, is disappointing and at times irritating.

The surroundings of the various subjects are certainly artistic and original, but in some plates the environment is overloaded with detail, while in others its artificiality is oppressive, and suggests tapestry or wall-paper rather than a background for a "nature-picture." W. E. C.

Our Bookshelf.

General Science: First Course. By L. Elhuff. Pp. vii + 435. (London: G. G. Harrap and Co., Ltd.) Price 5s. net.

THAT a pupil's first view of science should be a broad one has been more generally recognised in the United States than in this country. The routine of measurements and weighings, which is all that so many of our children know as science, fails to arouse enthusiasm except as a relief from work which is still more dull. Teachers who are breaking away from this system have been helped by more than one recent American publication. Their attention is confidently directed to the volume now under review.

In its general outlines the book does not differ widely from some of the best of its kind, but it is exceptional in that stress is laid in the earliest chapters on the value and the means of maintaining health. To the question "Why study science?" the answer is given: "To learn how to live." That is kept constantly in view throughout the book. In his preface the author puts the following first among the results which he hopes may be achieved: "A desire to grow strong