

Florentes ferulas et grandia lilia quassans: this is said of Silvanus and not of Pan—of Silvanus, *agresti capitis honore*, crowned with a wreath of oak leaves, and bearing in his hand, brandishing, *quassans*, flowering ferules and tall white lilies, leading in a train of weeping nymphs to Pan, over whose ruddled face the bloody juice of the dwarf elderberries trickles down. Cannot we see them all? *Panaque, Silvanumque senem, Nymphasque sorores*.

No. The book is not what we had hoped for, a safe guide, a trustworthy friend, a welcome companion, in the study or in the garden; it is disappointing. Such a book is needed—it has yet to be written. Why should not the author of this one write it? Here he has the first sketch of it, the half-carved block; the design is good, the material is good, they are worthy of further work. On his title-page he tells us that he was prompted by *tantus amor florum*; let him not omit to carry plenty of *suburra*, and he will be amply rewarded by the *generandi gloria mellis*.

G. H. W.

Our Bookshelf.

William Sutherland: A Biography. By Prof. W. A. Osborne. Pp. 102. (Melbourne: Lothian Book Publishing Co. Pty., Ltd.; London: The British Australasian, 1920.) Price 7s. 6d.

THE friends of the late William Sutherland will welcome this little biography by Prof. Osborne. It is a faithful portrait of the man charmingly conveyed by a judicious selection of incidents from his life. William Sutherland's was a remarkable character, and he was an unexpected product of a new country, where a leisured class scarcely exists. This biographer has done justice to his extraordinary versatility and modesty. Many who valued his society on account of his knowledge and appreciation of literature, painting, and music will, no doubt, be surprised to learn from his biography that he possessed a world-wide reputation as an investigator in molecular physics, and was the author of upwards of fifty papers dealing with some of the fundamental properties of matter.

Sutherland had no private fortune, but, nevertheless, abstained from devoting more of his time to earning money than was necessary. Occasional work for the Press and infrequent examinations produced sufficient income to supply his modest needs. This peculiarity kept him from accepting permanent academic posts. It is a matter for regret, however, that a small chair, which would have provided him with a laboratory, and brought him into contact with students, was not available for him. The value of the work he did with such devotion would have been en-

hanced thereby, and what a gain his inspiration would have been to any institution!

At the end of the volume Prof. Osborne has gracefully referred to Sutherland's saintliness. This is no exaggeration of his biographer. Although I loved him well and sought his society frequently, I was never quite comfortable in it because he was so singularly devoid of vices and so tolerant of other people's weaknesses. Notwithstanding his delightful sense of humour, it was scarcely more possible for us to attain complete harmony than for a drunkard to be quite at ease in the society of a teetotaler.

C. J. MARTIN.

Maryland Geological Survey: Cambrian and Ordovician. Pp. 424+lviii plates. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1919.)

THE Maryland Geological Survey has always been noted for the educational aspect of its publications, which are by no means a dry record of observations for the use of scientific specialists. They help the ordinary citizen to understand his State, and in so doing to appreciate the aims and methods of research. The results of much careful work in petrology and palæontology are brought together in the well-known green-covered volumes, so as to be accessible in private libraries and in schools. The present volume, by R. S. Bassler, covers a part of the Atlantic slope from the crest of the Alleghanies to the sea, thus including the three great belts of contrasted scenery that stretch from New England to Mississippi. The British controversy as to the nomenclature of the older Palæozoic systems is interestingly re-stated, and the author, on grounds of fairness to the original workers, would like to use Taconic and Cambrian for the systems now styled Cambrian and Ordovician respectively. He effects a proper compromise, however, and fairly discusses Ulrich's Ozarkian and Canadian systems.

There is certainly no "writing down" to a popular level in the stratigraphical and palæontological descriptions, though in one place, in a sketch of the life-processes of *Cryptozoon*, "lime" is accidentally used for "calcium carbonate." The results of investigations in other fields are brought together, and local fossils are illustrated by notable specimens, such as *Olenellus Thompsoni* from Vermont, which add interest to those already found in Maryland. *Cryptozoon* occurs in the Cambrian and Ordovician of Maryland, and its algal nature seems to be established, though the Cambrian fauna is generally poor. Does the author refer to this fact when he makes the general statement on p. 32 that the Pelecypoda appear for the first time in Ordovician strata?

The numerous photographs of wayside sections and rolling farmland country are a pleasing feature. Plate ii. shows, from the Virginian side, the fine gorge of the Potomac cut across the Cambrian sandstones at Harper's Ferry, a scene known alike to history, geography, and geology.

G. A. J. C.