

produce children in the absence of the means to support them. These measures will meet with a great amount of opposition on the part of those of our population who are swayed by vague sentiment, but it is our conviction that they will ultimately be forced on us by economic pressure.

E. W. M.

Guide-Books for the Naturalist.

- (1) *Salzburg*. Von Prof. Dr. Max Hoffer und Prof. Dr. Ludwig Lämmermayr. (Junk's Natur-Führer.) Pp. xvi+406. (Berlin: W. Junk, 1925.) 6 gold marks.
- (2) *Sächsische Schweiz*. Von Dr. Walther Friese. (Junk's Natur-Führer.) Pp. x + 354 + 3 Karten. (Berlin: W. Junk, 1925.) 6 gold marks.

THE geologist has long been indebted to the enterprise of German publishers for several excellent series of guide-books. Junk's "Natur-Führer," previous volumes of which have dealt with Tirol, the Riviera, Switzerland, South Bavaria, and Steiermark, are guides not only to the geology, but also to all subjects likely to interest the naturalist in the field. Attractively produced, and of convenient size, they contain numerous photographic illustrations, but maps have been omitted, owing to their prohibitive cost.

Primarily a guide-book of this nature must consist of a collection of local details arranged for ready reference. A mere collection of facts will, however, only bewilder the visitor unless he has sufficient general knowledge to collate them. It is, therefore, very necessary that a naturalist's guide-book should contain a few introductory chapters, generalising on such subjects as the physical geography, the geology, the botany, and the animal-life.

(1) It is a pity that some such plan has not been adopted in the guide to Salzburg. The authors have brought together a large number of facts, but insufficient attention has been given to their arrangement for reference. Paragraphs are often three or four pages long, and sub-headings are completely absent. The type is of monotonous uniformity, and lists of species are printed in continuity with the rest of the text. Two introductory chapters deal with the geography and the early history, but the former is mainly statistical. The rest of the book is a detailed local guide, traversing the country roughly in the order adopted in the corresponding Baedeker. Floral lists, often filling a whole page, are given at frequent intervals. If these had been replaced by an introductory chapter dealing with the botany as a whole, with especial reference to the altitude-zones of Alpine vegetation, it would have been sufficient to direct attention to exceptional local occurrences. In Salzburg the geological

facts can only be presented by the aid of numerous sections. There is not one in the whole book; hence the details given are usually very lacking in precision.

(2) Saxon Switzerland, the hilly district through which the river Elbe flows where it leaves German soil, is probably little visited by British travellers, although a favourite retreat for the holiday-making German. To geologists it was long ago made familiar by the works of Geinitz, and it is to the hard Cretaceous sandstones, eroded into many picturesque crags and precipices, that it owes its particular charm.

Being only one-ninth of the area of Salzburg, and of infinitely simpler geological structure, its description in a guide-book must have presented a much easier task. On the whole, Dr. Friese has arranged his facts very well. A number of interesting chapters, dealing with particular aspects of the natural history, occupy two-thirds of the book, the remaining third being a detailed guide traversing most of the area in twenty-four excursions. There are maps of the river-system, a simplified geological map, and numerous diagrams and sections.

Our Bookshelf.

- (1) *A Student's Manual of Organic Chemical Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative*. By Prof. Jocelyn Field Thorpe and Prof. Martha Annie Whiteley. Pp. x + 250. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1925.) 9s. net.
- (2) *Introduction to Qualitative Organic Analysis*. By Prof. Hermann Staudinger. Authorised translation by Dr. Walter T. K. Braunholtz. Pp. xvi + 112. (London: Gurney and Jackson; Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1925.) 6s. 6d. net.

THE difficulty with which qualitative organic analysis can be systematised, and the fact that the properties of the various organic groupings can be learnt best by experience, has rendered the literature on this subject very meagre in comparison with the comprehensive works published on inorganic analysis. The two books under review are welcome additions to the literature, treating the subject, as they do, from different points of view.

(1) Profs. Thorpe and Whiteley's book, as the title indicates, is intended for the student. Those who have worked under the direction of the authors will recognise in it the substance of their advanced practical organic course, amplified and arranged suitably for use as a work of reference. It is intended that a student with an elementary knowledge of organic chemistry will be able, after steadily working through the tests, to recognise and estimate the more common compounds and groupings and will be competent, with a little specialised experience, to undertake any type of organic analysis. The book includes detailed descriptions of both historical and modern methods of elementary analysis, and also gives a most comprehensive and up-to-date compilation of the methods used in estimating the more common types of organic substances. The