

The Sacred 5 of China is the 5th Book on China. By Dr. William Edgar Geil. Pp. xix+355+56 plates. (London: John Murray, 1926.) 24s. net.

As Dr. Geil's title-page indicates, he is the author of several books on China, of which "A Yankee on the Yangtze" is perhaps the best known. In explanation of his present title he says "5 is a number most remarkable to the man of the Central Kingdom." Here he deals with five sacred mountains, the peaks of East, South, Centre, West, and North—Tai Shan, Nan Yo, Sung Shan, Hua Shan, and Hêng Shan—associated with the five elements wood, fire, earth, metal, water, and the colours green, red, yellow, white and black. These mountains are all centres of pilgrimage. Of these sacred sites the importance for the student of Chinese culture lies in the fact that, like similar sites in other lands, they have been regarded as sacred from time immemorial. Like the holy wells of the British Isles, they represent a cult—and preserve survivals of it—which belongs to a stage of development infinitely more primitive than that of the official religion. So, says Dr. Geil, with the sacred mountains of China; beneath the thin rind of Buddhism, and far earlier than Confucianism, is the core with "an immemorial flavour of sanctity, the cult of the mountain spirit."

Dr. Geil, complying with the convention, ascends each mountain in five stages, but his description is not merely topographical or descriptive of the shrines and temples encountered on the way. He gives his readers a selection in each case from the legends, the history, the literature, the elements of ritual and cult associated with each peak, quoting liberally from the classics with such comment as suggests itself by the way. His book may well serve as an introduction to certain sides of the distinctive types of Chinese mentality, delicate in wit and instinct with an intellectuality peculiarly its own. The illustrations are numerous and excellently reproduced.

Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe und E. Wagler. Lieferung 2 (Teil 2. d₁, 12. h₁). Teil 2. d₁: *Noctiluca*, von A. Pratz; Teil 12. h₁: *Teleostei Physoclisti*, 10. *Heterosomata*, von W. Schnakenbeck. Pp. 12+60. 4.50 gold marks. Lieferung 3 (Teil 9. c₁, 9. c₂, 12. i₁). Teil 9. c₁: i. *Opisthobranchia*; ii. *Pteropoda*, von H. Hoffman; Teil 9. c₂: *Scaphopoda*, von Tera van Bentham Jutting; Teil 12. i₁: i. *Amphibia*; ii. *Reptilia*, von R. Mertens. Pp. 66+14+20. 7.80 gold marks. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1926.)

EACH group of animals dealt with in this new and admirably planned series is treated along definite lines; first the characters of the animals are described, then their systematic position, in some cases the best methods of fixation, the structure, the distribution, the method and powers of movement, the mode of feeding with details of the physiology of digestion and of excretion and an account of the food, the sense organs, reproduction and development, bionomics and relation to their surroundings with especial reference to parasites. Good bibliographies are provided, while excellent line drawings and maps to show the distribution illustrate the text. As a result of this mode of

treatment, we are being provided with a well-balanced account of the fauna of the North and Baltic Seas, compact and yet far removed from the old-fashioned catalogues of genera and species. Points of particular interest, such as light production in *Noctiluca*, the growth rings on otoliths and scales in fish and the methods of marking flatfish with metal discs, are treated in detail. Further additions to this series will be awaited with interest by all workers in marine biology.

Le tremblement de terre. Par Edmond Rothé. (Nouvelle Collection scientifique.) Pp. xxxiv+248. (Paris: Félix Alcan, 1925.) 10 francs.

M. ROTHÉ has given us in this little book a very clear account of the latest developments of seismology, especially of the instruments that have been designed for recording distant earthquakes, the methods of locating the epicentre, the forms of seismic rays, and their bearing on the structure of the earth's interior. If it were for these chapters alone, the book would be worth possessing.

The phenomena of ordinary earthquakes are treated at less length, and there are some curious omissions, but the author has wisely chosen in illustration two recent earthquakes that are not likely to lose their interest for many years to come, namely, the Chinese earthquake of 1920 and the Japanese earthquake of 1923. The book is perhaps not altogether well balanced. One could wish, for example, to see less use made of the work of Perrey, Montessus and other French authorities—fully one-third of the references are to French writers—and more to the valuable work done in Italy and Japan. The illustrations are in some cases rough and poorly reproduced, and it is difficult to see the use in a scientific text-book of pictures of Tokyo in flames or of heaps of corpses lying about the streets of the city. The preface, it may be added, contains a brief, though interesting, outline of the history of seismology.

C. D.

Migraine and other Common Neuroses: a Psychological Study. By Dr. F. G. Crookshank. (Psyche Miniatures, Medical Series, No. 1.) Pp. 101. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE average general practitioner has little time and opportunity for the study of text-books on the complicated, and in these days bewildering, subject of psychotherapy. To him, therefore, will be of especial value the publication of Dr. Crookshank's two lectures on migraine and other common neuroses. The book is a small one; it can be read in an hour, and the author's style is delightfully attractive. His views—even as expressed in the title—will, of course, arouse controversy, and some of his statements can be described only as startling. His reasoning that the mind may be the deciding factor in the etiology of dementia paralytica, because mental symptoms usually precede the appearance of physical signs, is unconvincing. Yet there is nothing in these pages which the neurologist or psychologist could dogmatically deny; and if the author's efforts to demonstrate the supremacy of the psychological factor in migraine should only turn the attention of physicians to the psychical aspect of all who are sick, the book will have served its purpose.