

development of the country. The early explorers and settlers brought in varieties of fruit from their native lands, many of which successfully passed through a period of acclimatisation. Selection and breeding from these old stocks have resulted in the production of new varieties better adapted to the needs of the growing fruit industry. Inevitably, increasing confusion of nomenclature has resulted, and therefore the American Pomological Society has drawn up a code of fruit nomenclature, in an endeavour to simplify matters. This code has been considered as the final umpire since about 1865, the last revision of 1923 being that now in use. W. E. B.

*Grundzüge der Paläontologie (Paläozoologie).* Von Karl A. von Zittel. Neubearbeitet von Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Broili und Dr. M. Schlosser. Abteilung 1: *Invertebrata*. Sechste verbesserte und vermehrte Auflage. Pp. viii + 733. 17 gold marks. Abteilung 2: *Vertebrata*. Vierte vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Pp. v + 706. 15 gold marks. (München und Berlin: R. Oldenbourg, 1923-24.)

BOTH geologists and zoologists are much indebted to Prof. Broili, of Munich, and the enterprising publishers of Zittel's "Elements of Palæontology," for a rapid succession of new editions of this indispensable handbook, keeping it up-to-date. It is a compendium of facts, with references to the scattered literature of the subject, such as are needed for research in many directions, and the arrangement of the matter, as originally planned by Zittel, makes it easily used. It still tends to be conservative in admitting new hypotheses or schemes of classification, and most of the additional figures resemble those of the first edition in being actual illustrations of fossils rather than explanatory sketches. The work indeed retains all the essential features of Zittel's incomparable exposition.

In the sixth edition of the section on Invertebrata the mollusca have been particularly revised with the aid of Prof. A. Naef and Dr. J. Schröder. In the fourth edition of the section on Vertebrata, the mammals, birds, and fishes have been revised entirely by Dr. Max Schlosser. Prof. Broili has thus supplemented his own labours by securing the co-operation of other well-known specialists, and the result is an encyclopædic work which inspires confidence. There are more small misprints than should appear in technical statements that are so carefully edited; and the additions sometimes necessitate changes which are not attended to in the context. Until, however, another Zittel arises to re-write the whole from the beginning, the minor blemishes incidental to patch-work cannot be avoided.

*The Natural History of the Oxford District.* Contributions edited by Comdr. James J. Walker. Presented to the Members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Oxford Meeting, 1926. Pp. viii + 336. (London: Oxford University Press, 1926.) 10s. net.

IT was to be expected that the natural history of the country immediately surrounding a great and ancient university would have been studied with especial thoroughness. None the less, the naturalists attending

the Oxford meeting of the British Association must have been impressed with the richness and variety of the plant and animal life and with the great geological interest of the district, as revealed in this handbook. The very abundance of the material at their disposal must have added to the difficulties of the task which the editor and his fellow-contributors set themselves and discharged with such conspicuous success. The volume consists of more than twenty short articles by authorities on their respective subjects. It opens appropriately with sketches of the physical history of the land forms and various other aspects of local geology. These are followed by accounts of the botany of the Upper Thames, and of the birds, insects, and other animals of the Oxford district. The final chapters deal with the entomological treasures in the Hope Department of the University Museum, the wonderful ethnological series in the Pitt-Rivers Museum, and the fine collection of early scientific instruments formed by Dr. Lewis Evans and housed in the Old Ashmolean Museum. The handbook constitutes a summary, and provides a record of local species, which will be of permanent value to such members of the University as are interested in biological studies, as well as to naturalists generally. It is perhaps permissible to suggest that, for the immediate purpose of its compilation, something a little less technical in style might have had an even wider appeal.

*Clouds and Weather Phenomena: for Artists and other Lovers of Nature.* By C. J. P. Cave. Pp. x + 31 + 23 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1926.) 5s. net.

FOURTEEN years ago, the Cambridge University Press published a book by Mr. Cave on "The Structure of the Atmosphere in Clear Weather," a well-known work on upper winds written by a meteorologist for meteorologists. "Clouds and Weather Phenomena," which is also published by the Cambridge Press, is of a very different type, and while a work on clouds by Mr. Cave will undoubtedly be read by most meteorologists, the book is not intended for those engaged in the study of the weather but for the general public, and more particularly for artists, whose knowledge of cloud forms is often shown by their works to be very slight. In accordance with this object, the book is written in the simplest manner and contains scarcely any reference to meteorological theory.

The first half of the text deals with the colour of the sky, including sunset colours, with rainbows, halos, and other optical phenomena, describing under what conditions and in which parts of the sky these are seen. The next section is devoted to clouds, the international nomenclature being followed and the types illustrated by twenty-two excellent photographs taken by the author, placed together at the end of the book. Some notes on the position and appearance of the moon at different seasons conclude the volume. Perhaps one may be allowed to express a doubt whether even an authority like Mr. Cave, backed by the Cambridge University Press, will be able to reform the ways of artists, but all meteorologists will extend a hearty welcome to the book and wish the attempt success. J. S. D.