

*Directions for the Dissection of the Cat.* By Prof. R. P. Bigelow. Pp. xii+47. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1925.) 4s. net.

THE directions for the dissection of the cat are here so arranged that the whole operation may be carried out on a single specimen, and the aim of the book is to give the student a clear survey of the organism as a whole and not as a system of organs. With this end in view, the dissection starts with the skin and muscles of the ventral body wall and works steadily through to the spinal cord and brain. Organs and structures are dealt with as they appear in the course of such a dissection and not in systems. The directions are clear and concise; necessary emphasis on particular points is given by heavy type, and the drawings which it is desirable for the student to make are indicated in their proper place and sequence. A useful introductory chapter gives valuable information on the preservation, embalming, and injection of material. The author believes that the dissection of the cat is a very desirable introduction to a course of human anatomy and physiology, and would be a valuable part of pre-medical studies; also that the size of the animal and the ease with which it can be obtained make it a favourable object for such studies. In such circumstances this book would be of considerable service, but the absence of any figures limits the value of the book and necessitates its use only in conjunction with standard works on the anatomy of the cat which are adequately illustrated.

*The History of Arithmetic.* By Prof. L. C. Karpinski. Pp. xii+200. (Chicago and New York: Rand McNally and Co., 1925.) n.p.

THE purpose of Prof. Karpinski's book is to present the development of arithmetical knowledge as a vital part of the history of civilisation. Particular attention is paid to the material of arithmetic taught in American elementary schools and to the historical phases of that work with which the teacher of arithmetic should be familiar. The book also contains a bibliography of the early American text-books of arithmetic printed before 1800, and refers to many of the early popular treatises on the subject used in England.

The volume is mainly intended to appeal to a popular audience desiring some acquaintance with the development of arithmetic from the earliest times. Prof. Karpinski gives a very entertaining account, based on the larger treatises of T. L. Heath, T. E. Peet, and D. E. Smith, of the progress of arithmetical knowledge from ancient Egyptian times until the present day. He also gives many carefully chosen diagrams which add interest to the theme. Most school libraries would be enriched by a copy of the book.

*A Practical Handbook on Rat Destruction.* By C. Leopold Claremont. Pp. vi+180+6 plates. (London: John Hart, n.d.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS book deals in an exhaustive and essentially useful manner with the problem of the rat. A brief introductory chapter on the characters and habits of the brown and black rats is followed by an account of the destruction of rats by trapping, hunting, and the use of gas, and of the various poisons most effective

for the purpose. These chapters are very exhaustive and of great practical value. The author then deals with the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act of 1919, and discusses in detail its various clauses and the responsibilities of owners, local authorities, and the Ministry of Agriculture in carrying out its provisions. He pleads for more whole-hearted co-operation between these parties in combating the rat menace. Chapters on the relation of the rat to public health and disease, and on a general survey of what has been done and what may be done in the matter of rat control, conclude a very useful book, which should be of great service, particularly to those officers of local authorities whose duties include the enforcement of the laws relating to the destruction of these pests.

*Travel and Travellers of the Middle Ages.* Edited by Prof. A. P. Newton. (The History of Civilization Series.) Pp. viii+223+7 plates. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1926.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE contents of this volume, which is one of the series appearing as "The History of Civilization," is a course of lectures delivered in the University of London. The book does not profess to be a complete survey of the subject, but several of the lectures have been expanded and the editor has added an introduction on the conception of the world in the Middle Ages. The twelve chapters are by various writers, including Prof. M. L. W. Laistner, Prof. Claude Jenkins, Sir T. W. Arnold, Baron A. F. Meyendorff, Prof. E. Prestage, Sir E. D. Ross, Prof. A. Mawer, and Dr. E. Power. Those on Christian pilgrimages, Arab travellers, the routes to Cathay, and Prester John may specially be noted. Prof. Mawer, whose contribution on the Vikings has no references to authorities, apparently accepts the Norse voyages to Vinland, and does not mention the researches of Nansen and others with their conclusion that Vinland was a myth. The book has a few illustrations, but only two maps.

*The Borderland of Music and Psychology.* By Frank Howes. Pp. x+244. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; J. Curwen and Sons, Ltd., 1926.) 6s. net.

"ART and intellectual speculation are the two exceptional realms of the mind of which the psychologist finds it most difficult to give an account" (p. 147). Too much has been expected from psychology since it presumed to stand in its own right as an experimental science. Many who looked to it for immediate solution of age-long problems disappointedly turn away as from a charlatan. In doing so the valuable little that it already has to give is lost. The author, with sympathetic knowledge of current musical and psychological theories, has given a capable preliminary survey of an interesting no-man's-land lying between suspicious armed camps. If at times he laughs at both from the exalted heights of philosophy, we forgive him, for he never loses himself in the realm where the problem is of more importance than its solution, but ever returns to his theme with notes such as: "But this is not science, nor even musical criticism" (p. 142); "We step beyond psychology when, after saying what musicians and audiences do, we ask, 'What is music?'" (p. 40). R. J. B.