

*The Useful Trees of Northern Nigeria.* By H. V. Lely. Pp. xii+128+120 plates. (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1925.) 10s. net.

MR. LELY has rendered a service to African forestry by the preparation and publication of his descriptive account of 128 of the useful trees of Northern Nigeria. This book will be helpful not only to his colleagues but also to forest officers in other African colonies, to which many of the trees described extend their range. The author's method may be commended to the consideration of others who, we hope, will follow his example; as he expresses it, his aim has been to describe and illustrate the material as it appears to be and not only as it actually is from the scientific point of view, avoiding botanical terms except where they have no alternative. Technical descriptions can always be provided by the compiler of a flora, working at home, but information such as that supplied by the author of the work under review can only be given by 'the man in the field.'

If other colonial forest officers will follow Mr. Lely's lead, by giving us illustrated accounts of the dominant trees of their areas, it will be of great assistance to their colleagues and successors, and will help to prevent many erroneous determinations such as are now so commonly met with. Such accounts would tend also to bring to light the still too numerous species not yet identified botanically, and would furnish us with much-needed information as to the 'habit' of the various species discussed.

A few slight corrections ought, perhaps, to be noted for the benefit of African forest officers. The genus *Lophira* has been retained by Mr. Lely in the Diptero-carpaceæ instead of in the Ochnaceæ, to which family it is now referred. The genera *Eriodendron*, *Ceiba*, and *Bombax* are now usually separated from the Malvaceæ to form a distinct family, the Bombacaceæ; *Eugenia guineensis* is now generally placed in a separate genus, *Syzygium*, as *S. guineense*. Sir David Prain's revision of the African species of 'Afzelia' under the generic name *Pahudia* appears to have been overlooked, for *Pahudia africana* (Sm.) Prain appears as *Afzelia africana*.

We sincerely hope that Mr. Lely will feel encouraged to continue the good work until all the trees of his region have been described and figured.

J. BURTT DAVY.

*Synonymy of the British Non-Marine Mollusca (Recent and Post-Tertiary).* Compiled and Annotated by A. S. Kennard and B. B. Woodward. Pp. xxiv+447. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1926.) 20s.

THIS work is almost devoid of readable matter, but is nevertheless of fundamental importance to all who are engaged in research on non-marine Mollusca or on the Pleistocene deposits. It gives a list of all the genera, sub-genera, and species (recent and post-Tertiary), with bibliographical references, together with the etymology of the names adopted, and the geological range of the species in Great Britain. The names used are those which, in the opinion of the authors, most nearly accord with the requirements of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. 172 species of gasteropods and 37 of lamellibranchs

are recorded, most of which are found fossil in the Pleistocene, and some in the Pliocene deposits. About 16 per cent. of the species are extinct in Great Britain. Some idea of the immense labour involved in the preparation of this work can be formed from the bibliography, which occupies 54 pages.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Scotland. The Economic Geology of the Central Coalfield of Scotland. Area 5: Glasgow East, Coatbridge and Airdrie; with Chryston, Glenboig, Greengairs, Slamannan, Caldercruix and Salsburgh.* By Dr. C. T. Clough, L. W. Hinxman, W. B. Wright, E. M. Anderson, and R. G. Carruthers; with contributions from Dr. R. Kidston, Dr. G. W. Lee. Second edition, with additions by M. Macgregor. Pp. x+171+13 plates. (Edinburgh and London: H.M. Stationery Office; Southampton: Ordnance Survey Office, 1926.) 5s. net.

THIS memoir is a new edition (with corrections and additions) of that on the same area, first published in 1916. In addition to minor corrections and amplifications, Chapter ii. dealing with the Carboniferous Limestone series, in which certain important coal seams occur, has been almost entirely rewritten, whilst there have also been some changes in Chapter iii. dealing with the Millstone Grit. It is evidently of great importance that, as fresh information is available, works such as these should be kept up-to-date and amplified where necessary.

*Erde und Weltall.* Von Svante Arrhenius. Aus dem Schwedischen übersetzt von Dr. Finkelstein. Pp. vii+342+2 Tafeln. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1926.) 12 gold marks.

THIS is a German translation from the Swedish; it is a combined and revised version of the two earlier works by the author, published in 1906 and 1915. The book deals only with the solar system, with special reference to the earth and geophysics (including atmospheric physics and climatology). It is written in picturesque and discursive style, and there are numerous small illustrations. Many references are made to very recent work.

*Solutions of the Examples in a Treatise on Dynamics of a Particle and of Rigid Bodies.* By S. L. Loney. Pp. vi+240. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1926.) 17s. 6d. net.

PROF. LONEY has here provided complete and concise solutions to the examples of his well-known treatise on dynamics, which will be very useful to teachers and to those advanced students of applied mathematics who are sufficiently mature to know the legitimate use of such a key.

*Physische Erdkunde: die Gestaltung der Erdoberfläche.* Von Prof. Dr. Richard Lehmann. Pp. vii+240. (Braunschweig: Friedr. Vieweg und Sohn A.-G., 1925.) 12.50 gold marks.

THIS is a text-book of physical geography, of the usual type. The processes of development of surface features are described at length, and the illustrations are numerous. The earth's thermal state is mentioned, but radioactivity is not.