

The dated stela found at Chetumal Bay shows an Initial Series which, on Spender's correlation, corresponds to Oct. 26, A.D. 333. This is the earliest of the four series found in Yucatan by nearly three centuries, and shows that the Maya had obtained a foothold in this part of the country long before it was supposed to be inhabited at all. Dr. Gann, after visiting the "Cave of Flowers," which he suggests with reason may yield to exploration vestiges of early man, went on to Coba, attracted thither by a suggestion in a recent translation of an ancient Maya manuscript. The gigantic causeway leading to the site must be, in its way, one of the most remarkable achievements of Maya mechanical skill, while the temple mound at Coba itself is probably the highest in Yucatan. The special interest of the site, apart from the many peculiar characters of its three types of Maya civilisation, lies in the fact that it does not appear to have come under Toltec domination—a fact which will undoubtedly prove of no little importance when the exact bearing of Dr. Gann's discoveries on Maya history has been worked out.

It has not been possible even to touch upon the many matters of the greatest archaeological interest to which Dr. Gann himself has sometimes only been able to refer in passing, and a more extended and detailed report will be eagerly awaited. It must not be thought, however, that Dr. Gann has confined himself to matters archaeological. His account of the incidents of his journey and of the people he met are, as usual, both informative and amusing.

*Zoologisches Wörterbuch : Erklärung der zoologischen Fachausdrücke ; zum Gebrauch beim Studium zoologischer, anatomischer, entwicklungsgeschichtlicher und naturphilosophischer Werke.* Verfasst von Prof. Dr. E. Bresslau und Prof. Dr. H. E. Ziegler. Unter Mitwirkung von Prof. J. Eichler, Prof. Dr. E. Fraas, Prof. Dr. K. Lampert, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Schmidt, und Prof. Dr. J. Wilhelm. Revidiert und herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. H. E. Ziegler und Prof. Dr. E. Bresslau. Dritte vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. Pp. viii + 786. (Jena : Gustav Fischer, 1927.) 28 gold marks.

The proof of the first half of this new edition was corrected when the sudden death of the senior author, Prof. H. E. Ziegler, occurred on June 1, 1925. Prof. Bresslau has therefore been responsible for the revision of the second half of the volume. The aim of the book is to give a definition or brief explanation of the terms used in zoology, of the classes and orders of animals, of the most important families, and of those genera which are of special significance from a theoretical or from an economic point of view. The classical origins of the terms and of the generic names are given, and in many cases the author of a term is cited, e.g. "Gastrula (Haeckel, 1872)."

The authors must have been often faced with the difficulty as to what to include and what to omit, and individual readers will no doubt wish that more could have been included. For example,

Gyrodactylus and mitochondria receive notice, but Gyrocotyle, Stegomyia, and the Golgi apparatus are omitted. Errors appear to be remarkably few ; Bilharzia is said to occur in the kidney, the fleas are stated to form a single family (modern practice is to divide them into two families), and Geotria is referred to as a South American genus, whereas three of its four known species are Australasian.

The cross references are in several cases out-of-date, e.g. under Ancylostomum (the official spelling is Ancylostoma) the reader is referred to Doehmius, and under Giardia to Cercomonas, but Ancylostoma and Giardia are the names now in use, and the description should be under these heads and not under the obsolete names. The illustrations (575 in number) are on the whole good, but a few are unsatisfactory, e.g. *Balantidium coli*, *Pulex irritans*, malaria and Sarcocystis (especially the spores). But these are small blemishes in a work so large and so difficult to prepare. The volume may be recommended as a helpful and trustworthy work of reference.

*Electrical Contracting : a Guide and Handbook specially designed to meet the Needs of all those engaged in Business as Electrical Contractors.*

By H. Ayres Purdie. Pp. xxxii + 375. (London : Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1926.) 10s. 6d. net.

ELECTRICAL contractors form a very important section of the engineering industry. It is curious, therefore, that so few books are published to meet their needs. It is necessary that they should know the best method of organising their businesses, preparing estimates, reading and supplying specifications, and preparing schemes for lighting, heating, and power. They have also to know the best materials to use in given cases.

We think that this book under notice will be found of practical use to contractors. In an introduction, stress is laid on the importance of good workmanship. To have cheap materials properly installed by a conscientiously competent workman is much preferable to having good materials casually and carelessly installed. Screwed steel conduit, for example, even when of the best quality, does not signify a safe installation if improperly fitted up. Special care has to be taken when choosing switches for bathrooms, kitchens, cellars, and so on. It is specially important also that the 'earthing' of the conduit be efficiently done. Useful information is given on illumination work, the number of foot candles required for all kinds of lighting being specified. The methods of installing electrical signs are described. We are told that the well-known 'neon' illumination of the Coliseum, Charing Cross, London, and the enormous *Daily Mail* sign at Blackfriars Bridge over the Thames, consume only 22 and 15 units per hour respectively. The high-tension side of these signs, which operates at pressures not less than 2000 volts and is consequently dangerous, is erected by the makers themselves. It is pointed out that it is sometimes advantageous to work the electric bells in a house from the alternating current supply.