

Two Swiss geologists, H. Adrian and H. Hintermann, deal with travel in Ecuador, from experience gained on reconnaissance trips in 1924 and 1925. Although they state that their visits were comparatively short, they appear to have gained a good general knowledge of the country, its customs, and means of transport. N. H. van Doorninck and H. J. Schuiling, mining geologists connected with the Union Minière du Haut Katanga, deal with the Eastern Congo in a useful article which supplements that on East Africa, by P. A. Wagner and T. G. Trevor, included in the first volume of the series.

In the introductory section of his article (in German) on northern Manchuria and the Amur and Maritime Provinces of the Russian Far East, E. E. Ahnert has condensed a large amount of detailed information concerning the physical conditions of the region, and illustrates this account by several sketch-maps. Both this information and his review of the progress of the topographical and geological survey of the region should be useful, since much of the literature is in Russian, as shown by his bibliography. Equally detailed is his information concerning suitable equipment, convenient centres for exploratory work, prices, etc. The last article, in which J. B. Scrivenor deals with some aspects of travelling in the Malay Peninsula, is shorter and less detailed than the others.

*Handbuch der Pflanzenanatomie.* Herausgegeben von Prof. K. Linsbauer. Abteilung 1, Teil 2: *Histologie.* Lieferung 22, Band 5: *Die pflanzlichen Trennungsgewebe.* Von Dr. H. Pfeiffer. Pp. viii + 236. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1928.) 16 gold marks.

THE separation of plant parts from the parent organs has been much studied in more or less isolated examples, but for the first time the very scattered results have been fully classified and considered as aspects of one subject in the above work. The classification of abscission tissues is under three main headings: the separation of withering or dead organs (including the fall of leaves in autumn, of flower-parts after pollination, and of axial organs), the severing of living parts which continue to function after becoming distinct from the parent (including processes involved in vegetative multiplication and sexual reproduction), and the pathological production of tissues causing the separation of plant-parts. A summary of the general descriptive anatomy of abscission tissues follows their detailed classification.

In an attempt to define the causes underlying the formation of tissues leading to the separation of plant-parts, the author emphasises the absence of general theories and confesses that though partial explanations, especially of an ecological or biological (and, it appears, partly of a teleological) nature, have been suggested, no unifying working hypothesis has yet been obtained. The need for further research in different branches of the subject is often indicated. The work is illustrated with 36 text-figures, and is provided with a list of cited literature, occupying 19 pages, and with indexes.

No. 3078, VOL. 122]

*Photography, its Principles and Practice: a Manual of the Theory and Practice of Photography designed for use in Colleges, Technical Institutions, and by the Advanced Student of the Science.* By C. B. Neblette. Pp. xviii + 644. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1927.) 30s. net.

IT is a considerable time since a text-book of photography was available for college students of the subject, and during that time a large amount of investigation has been carried out, and many interesting and important results obtained. This volume is notable as being the first, at least in the English language, to incorporate these results and present them in a connected manner.

We believe that the author has had considerable experience as a teacher of photography, and being well qualified for the task, he has produced a very praiseworthy work. Being the first edition, and practically a pioneer with regard to the more modern developments, one must not expect that freedom from errors, chiefly typographical, that may very properly be looked for in a subsequent edition. Although it is a large book, of course every item has to be summarised, and there is much scope for variety of opinion as to how the available space shall be divided among the many sections of the subject. We take one example only. The author says that "wet collodion is still unsurpassed for line work," but he does not treat of this process, which is important, for theoretical as well as practical purposes, except in a cursory manner in the general historical introduction. However, we welcome this useful addition to photographic literature.

*Vertebrate Embryology: a Text-book for Colleges and Universities.* By Prof. Waldo Shumway. Pp. viii + 314. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1927.) 18s. 6d. net.

AN excellent introduction to the comparative study of embryology, dealing mainly with *Amphioxus*, the frog, the chick, the pig, and man, with a concise but illuminating discussion of the embryological aspects of genetics, and useful technical instructions for making and staining serial sections of embryos. The fact that the book is illustrated by Miss Katharine Hill (Mrs. Paul) confers upon it its outstanding distinction. The figures are so clear and diagrammatic as to be self-explanatory.

*Notes on some Birds of Dar es Salaam.* By Cecily J. Ruggles-Brise. Pp. xviii + 96 + 20 plates. (Norwich and London: Jarrold and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) 4s. 6d. net.

MISS RUGGLES-BRISE in this little book gives quite an interesting account of many of the common birds of the provinces about which she writes. It is true that we shall be disappointed if we expect to obtain any new information or any matter of scientific interest; but visitors to this part of Africa will find the book will help them to name some of the birds they see. The pen sketches of the birds are rather crude, but the few photographs are quite charming.