

from every angle the open-air movement is looked upon and guided by hints gained through long experience. Five hundred drawings by the author illustrate the text, and though the work is founded upon an American basis, most of its tips are applicable to scouting in Great Britain, and the remainder are well worth knowing about in any case.

(2) Although Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne" used often to be, and may still be, a prize frequently given to schoolboys, we can scarcely imagine that it is received with due appreciation. Neither the form in which the information is cast nor the style of expression is likely to appeal to a boy, who demands either concise and clear-cut descriptions or a Nature tale adventurous and imaginative. Mr. Woodward, having perceived the difficulty, has endeavoured to solve it by reproducing selected passages, in which the text has been simplified, punctuation put to rights, too heavy sentences broken up, and difficult words translated. Some of Bewick's cuts, and eight coloured plates (from Jardine's "Natural History"), illustrate the text; but in spite of all we still have the feeling that boys will fight shy of these leisurely and disjointed observations of the Vicar of Selborne.

*An Outline of Comparative Psychology.* By Prof. C. J. Warden. (Psyche Miniatures, General Series No. 20.) Pp. 147. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 2s. 6d. net.

IN this work the author gives us a historical account of man's attitude towards the animal kingdom from the earliest ages. Cro-Magnon man appears to have been the first to take an intelligent interest in the animals round him. However, it is not until comparatively recent times that the science of comparative psychology can be said to have become established. Darwin may be looked on as the founder of modern comparative psychology. The author might well have devoted considerably more space to the experimental movement and told us more about the behaviourist school. The most important work of the Russian school under Pawlow dealing with conditioned reflexes is dismissed in a paltry five lines, but the Americans come in for pages of praise. Köhler's work on the mentality of apes might well have received mention if nothing more. Apparently the author is unaware of the results of the study of animal behaviour outside the United States.

*Birds at the Nest.* By Douglas Dewar. Pp. viii + 271. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd., 1928.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE title of this book scarcely conveys to the would-be reader what its contents really are. Briefly put, these may be said to be an attempt to prove that every action of the bird is controlled or carried out by instinct and that intelligence does not exist in the bird mind.

The author brings forward a vast mass of evidence to prove his theories, and at first would seem more or less to have succeeded in doing so. The second reading, however, leaves us with the impression that his reasoning is faulty, his deduc-

tions wrong, and his assumptions hasty. It is true that he shows—and shows really well—that birds during the breeding season are obsessed with three furors: first, that of producing their kind; second, that of hatching their eggs; and third, that of feeding the young. It is equally true that he proves in very many cases that birds are so completely controlled by these emotions that these entirely override intelligent action. To our mind, however, he fails to prove that instinct is the sole motive power in the actions of birds and that intelligence plays no part in them.

The book is one worth reading and is, perhaps, the best the very hard-working author has yet produced.

*Birds of the Ocean: a Handbook for Voyagers; containing Descriptions of all the Sea-Birds of the World, with Notes on their Habits and Guides to their Identification.* By W. B. Alexander. (Putnam's Nature Field Books.) Pp. xxiii + 428 + 88 plates. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., 1928.) 15s. net.

THE present volume contains an account of all those birds to be met with on sea voyages throughout the world, its aim being to make possible the identification of these birds by observation alone. On the whole, we may say that the object aimed at has been attained. The descriptions given are such as will enable most people to identify the vast majority of birds they happen to meet with, and Mr. Alexander's book is one which should find a place in the library of every sea-going vessel.

Each bird is dealt with briefly, the numerous diagrammatic illustrations given will be a real aid to identification, whilst some of the photographic illustrations are really beautiful. The get-up of the book is not worthy of its contents, the paper being poor and the letterpress to the plates often cut off by the faulty binding.

*Judgment and Reasoning in the Child.* By Prof. Jean Piaget, in collaboration with Mlles. E. Cartalis, S. Escher, A. Hanhart, L. Hannloser, O. Matthes, S. Perret, and M. Roud. Translated by Marjorie Warden. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. viii + 260. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1928.) 10s. 6d. net.

AN excellent book. Dr. Piaget gives a very detailed and comprehensive account of investigation into judgment and reasoning as shown by young children. The book forms a supplement to "Language and Thought of the Child." The logical and reasoning powers of children are not simply elementary forms of adult logic and reasoning; they are something different. The logic of the child is almost entirely ego-centric; it is more closely allied to the autistic or dereistic type of thinking, a conception which we owe to the psychoanalytic school. The child's powers of reasoning are very limited, and it is not until the age of 11-12 years that anything approaching sound formal reasoning appears.