

great economic importance. The general methods of treatment of each crop, from seed to harvest, vary considerably, and are outlined in this volume, sufficient illustrations and tables being provided to emphasise the salient points in crop development, manuring and marketing, and to provide a useful guide to the reader.

- (1) *Rovers and Stay-at-Homes*. By Maribel Edwin. Pp. v + 181. (London and Toronto : J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. ; New York : E. P. Dutton and Co., 1927.) 5s. net.
- (2) *African Jungle Life*. By Major A. Radclyffe Dugmore. Pp. viii + 246 + 8 plates. (London : Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 15s. net.

(1) IN these short tales, Mrs. Edwin has succeeded in capturing again the fine feeling of her earlier book. The stories are written for young children, and are marked by delightful simplicity of word and narrative. Each story gives a charming and accurate impression of the ordinary life-story of a common British creature—seal, sparrow, rat, sea-gull, eagle, and red-deer are typical samples. Lively pen sketches by M. M. Howard decorate almost every page, but the artist has an exaggerated notion of the amount of leg which a Scottish kilt may properly expose.

(2) Major Dugmore has chosen a series of silhouettes of African jungle life, and round them has written and illustrated a book which, while not specifically addressed to the young, will entrance both them and their elders. His personal touch with the jungle gives vividness, freshness, and accuracy to his stories of the adventures of the selected creatures—elephant, lion, buffalo, rhinoceros, and giraffe—and it is gratifying to read of the success which restrictive game laws, animal reserves, and, not least, enlightened public opinion, have had in preserving the wild fauna and increasing the numbers of innocuous creatures like the giraffe.

Major Dugmore is less happy in his arguments against the advocates of protective coloration, though his actual experiences must be given due weight ; when, for example, he suggests that the winter change of the Arctic hare is not protective, because the hare retains its black eye, he forgets that a black eye is surely less conspicuous in snow than a complete brown hare, and that the pigmentation of the retina is an essential to the best vision.

*The Earth and its Rhythms*. By Prof. Charles Schuchert and Clare M. Le Vene. Pp. xvi + 410. (New York and London : D. Appleton and Co., 1927.) 15s. net.

OF the many recent attempts to present popularised geology to the general reader, most of which have come from the United States, this is undoubtedly by far the most successful. The book is attractive in style and make-up ; beautifully adorned with illustrations ; well proportioned in its matter ; and authoritative in its facts. The authors are fully aware of the difficulties that stand in the way of interpreting the processes of geology and the principles of evolution and earth-history to the

non-scientific mind. They point out that the book is not intended for the geological purist, and that if there are any generalities that may offend him, he can best spend his spare time in explaining the exceptions that outcrop in the field of generalisations.

The geological purist may, nevertheless, safely recommend the book to any of his friends who may wish to absorb from our common intellectual heritage some knowledge of the record of the rocks. A little more than half the book deals with the architecture of the earth's crust, the fashioning of the raw materials into scenery, and the endless interplay of internal and external agencies. A chapter on geological time then introduces the dark ages of earth history, and the remaining chapters describe the dramatic procession of life with the skill that is to be expected of Prof. Schuchert. The book concludes with chapters on the ice ages and the coming of man. Authors and publishers are to be congratulated on a co-operation that has notably enriched the popular literature of science.

*The Ramblings of a Bird Lover*. By the Rev. Canon Charles E. Raven. Pp. xvi + 186 + 31 plates. (London : Martin Hopkinson and Co., Ltd., 1927.) 10s. 6d. net.

AFTER reading this book, the two things the reader finds impressed upon him are these : first, that the author will insist on commencing most of his sentences with 'and' and, secondly, in spite of the weakness of his English, how very charming it all is. One finds that Mr. Raven can turn the catching of a gurnet into a poem of bliss, or can write a most interesting article on fish-bait. All that the author tells us in his book are things most of us knew in our early childhood, yet he awakens in us a fresh delight in our own knowledge.

The illustrations are almost as charming as the letterpress. The printing is good, and the general get-up of the book quite satisfactory. If the reader is irritated by the 'ands' when he starts reading, by the time he puts the book down he will be only too anxious for more.

*Practical Vegetable Growing*. By J. W. Morton. Pp. 180 + 8 plates. (London : Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1928.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS is an excellent book, by an author who understands the practical side of the cultivation of vegetables. We are in agreement with his comment that far more knowledge may be definitely obtained from careful reading than is realised by the majority of those whose living depends upon the land. Here there is much to be gleaned that will encourage the market gardener, as well as those who work on allotments or maintain small garden plots in outer London and suburban areas. Cultivators in the last category are increasing in number without doubt, and have a special freemasonry of their own to boot.

The book has several useful illustrations, whilst the vegetables dealt with have been taken in alphabetical order. There is a satisfactory index.