

their functions, which facilitates their comparative study as types.

The descriptions are not confined to British instruments, all the better-known foreign makes being included. An interesting chapter deals with the methods of measuring actual height above the ground immediately beneath the aircraft. This problem is very much in the minds of aircraft operators, and is by no means successfully solved yet.

*The Victorian Tragedy.* By Dr. Esmé Wingfield-Stratford. Pp. ix + 296. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1930.) 10s. 6d. net.

WHY 'tragedy'? One reads Dr. Wingfield-Stratford's new and brilliant book through with growing wonder. He meets so fully all the cheap gibes against the last generation—the ineffectual politicians, the hypocritical moralists, the fainting women, and all the rest of it—and shows the contrary truth of an age of exceptional earnestness, industry, and success—"the heyday of idealism and imaginative genius"; and then sums it up as a "tragedy". What does he mean? Dr. Wingfield-Stratford's answer is that the Victorian middle class was 'tragic' because its members went on their earnest and triumphant way quite unwitting of the catastrophe which was to follow and of the greatest social and industrial problem which remained to be solved. The latter was the humanising of the industrial revolution, the widening of the conquest of Nature which the nineteenth century initiated with scientific machinery into a conquest of human conditions, the addition of an ideal of beauty to that of wealth.

No doubt on this side our Victorian ancestors were defective; but it was they who first proclaimed the need of the change, through Ruskin, Morris, Carlyle, and a host of other prophets and workers. Unhappily, it was a far easier and quicker process to make cotton goods in a factory than happy and intelligent workers in garden cities. The mechanical process outstripped the moral; but it is mere ignorance and ingratitude to overlook the fact that the mechanical conquest of Nature made possible the vast extension of health and well-being of all kinds which the inheritors of the Victorians now enjoy. Dr. Wingfield-Stratford, of course, does not fall into this gross error, and he has given us a book which is delightful to read for its wit, enthusiasm, and good stories, while it constantly raises big questions such as we have discussed above.

F. S. M.

*The Fauna of British India: including Ceylon and Burma.* Published under the Authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by Lieut.-Col. J. Stephenson. *Cestoda*. Vol. 1. By Dr. T. Southwell. Pp. xxxi + 391. (London: Taylor and Francis, 1930.) 22s. 6d.

THE investigations of the late Sir William Herdman on the pearl fisheries of Ceylon, begun in 1902, suggested infection with larval cestodes as a cause of pearl formation and thus directed attention to the cestode parasites of fishes found in Indian seas. The reports on these by the late Sir Arthur Shipley

and Mr. James Hornell were followed by a series of papers by Dr. Southwell, who later turned his attention also to the cestodes of Indian land vertebrates. Since the War a number of other helminthologists have given a good deal of attention to Indian cestodes. Dr. Southwell has now produced the first volume of a monograph which will be found of great value as bringing together the results of all these researches, hitherto scattered in many scientific periodicals.

The volume deals with those families that include most of the fish-infesting species, and contains an introduction giving a useful account of the structure and classification of the group. The illustrations are numerous and excellent. A little more care in the arrangement of the matter would, in some places, have made the book more easy to consult for those who are not specialists. The hasty reader, finding on p. 344, for example, the names *Thysanobothrium uarnakense* and *Parataenia elongatus* standing in black type at the head of paragraphs of description, may waste some time in discovering that these are regarded as synonyms of *Polycephalus radiatus* described on p. 342. In the preface it is pointed out that "the field is largely unexplored, and it is clear that in the near future additions to our knowledge are likely to be made on a large scale". This desirable result will no doubt be hastened by the publication of Dr. Southwell's volume.

*Thomas Aquinas.* By Rev. M. C. D'Arcy. (Leaders of Philosophy Series.) Pp. ix + 292. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1930.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE extent of the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas and the vastness of his system make it a very difficult task to condense his philosophy within the compass of three hundred pages. Yet Father D'Arcy has succeeded in presenting the fundamental principles of the Angelic doctor's system in a concise and accurate form.

Although St. Thomas shared many of the naïve beliefs of his contemporaries, he was aware of the provisional character of much science and skirted its treacherous sands when he wished to establish a truth definitely. The physical universe as St. Thomas saw it is the one made familiar to us by Aristotle and the Ptolemaic system; nevertheless, he puts in quietly the *caveat* with his cautious "if it be true". So that his scientific beliefs have little bearing on the fundamental aspects of his mental and moral philosophy. Indeed, in revising St. Thomas's teachings, his modern followers have given up with good grace his astronomical beliefs, his theory of the four elements, of the influence of the air and the sun, of motion, of the physical, chemical, and biological conceptions which entered into his philosophy of substance and change. The bibliography at the end of the book shows that much has to be done in Great Britain for the study of St. Thomas, who had, after all, a considerable influence in the Middle Ages. If Father D'Arcy's book awakens the interest of his readers in that direction, his labours will not have been in vain.

T. G.