

in a second volume. Students and others interested in Islam will be grateful for this convenient and compendious survey. Very full bibliographies appended to each chapter serve as a guide to closer study.

Biology.

Journals of Gilbert White. Edited by Walter Johnson. (Broadway Diaries, Memoirs and Letters.) Pp. xviii + 463 + 4 plates. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1931.) 21s. net.

GILBERT WHITE'S "Natural History of Selborne", 1789, is a book which stands alone as the work of a charming, kindly old bachelor, naturalist, and poet. It is simple and happy, full of the joy of life, and has a fine literary style of its own; it will probably be for all time the premier work on the natural history of any part of England. The "Natural History" was largely culled from White's *Garden Calendar*, published in full by Bowdler Sharpe in his edition of Selborne, 1900, and from the *Naturalist's Journal*, begun in 1768. The latter is now published for the first time, and it is ably edited, so that passages already used by White are eliminated. But why is it published at all? It was not written by White to be published—and we feel that he would have been very averse from doing so. It adds nothing to White's fame, gives no fresh picture of his life and times, and relatively few natural history observations of value to-day. It was proper to preserve it in the British Museum, but we feel that it would have been preferable to allow it to remain in its honoured obscurity.

An Introduction to Zoology. By P. W. Gideon. Pp. vi + 90. (Dharwar: Students' Own Book Depot, 1930.) 5.8 rupees.

THE title of the present book gives no indication as to its nature. It is really a laboratory guide, which in size and the arrangement of the plates recalls Howes's "Atlas of Biology", and is intended for use in the intermediate science classes of the Indian universities. There are twenty-one chapters, some general, but most deal with a series of animal types, from *Amœba* to the frog. Each chapter contains a general introduction, one or more plates of figures, and several pages of notes arranged in a schematic way. By means of these notes a very large amount of information is conveyed in a limited compass. Considering that it was printed in a small centre, it is well done, but it contains a number of typographical errors. The drawings are clear and well reproduced. In addition to the usual information regarding the types, there are also classifications of the phyla and main groups to which the different animals belong.

The book should prove useful to the students for whom it is intended, and has much to commend it. The danger lies in the student allowing its drawings and notes to replace his own, and in 'cramming' from it instead of relying upon fuller texts. The author has obviously spent considerable time and thought in planning the work, and it will not only

assist the student in the laboratory but also help him to arrange his information and to revise his work.

Flora of West Tropical Africa: the British West African Colonies, British Cameroons, the French and Portuguese Colonies south of the Tropic of Cancer to Lake Chad, and Fernando Po. By J. Hutchinson and Dr. J. M. Dalziel. Prepared at the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, under the supervision of the Director. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Vol. 2, Part 1. Pp. iii + 292. (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1931.) 8s. 6d.

IN part 1 of vol. 2 of this "Flora", thirty-three families of Gamopetaleæ are considered. From the economic point of view none is of very great significance, but botanically speaking there are several of great importance, notably the Rubiaceæ and the Compositæ. These two account for seventy-three and seventy-two genera, and 465 and 192 species respectively. The former has also the most prolific genus in *Psychotria*, which is represented by fifty-two species in this region. Altogether the thirty-three families present 420 genera and nearly 1600 species; of the latter 102 are new, and there are two new varieties and forty-nine new combinations.

The co-operation of Miss M. B. Moss was obtained for the preparation of the Myrsinaceæ and the Loganiaceæ and of Mr. A. Bulloch for the Solanaceæ.

An interesting fact in plant distribution is the considerable number of species common to this tract and to India, especially the south-west of that country. Strangely, however, *Avicennia officinalis* Linn., which is present in the mangrove swamps of India and East Africa, is not found; the genus here being represented by *A. nitida* Jacq.

Plant Physiology: with Reference to the Green Plant. By Prof. Edwin C. Miller. Pp. xxiv + 900. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1931.) 35s. net.

IN the preface of this book, which he describes as an advanced text in plant physiology, the author points out that the various European textbooks usually fail to deal adequately with the work of American and English plant physiologists. In this book American and English work is very adequately covered, whilst continental work is by no means neglected.

The field of plant physiology is very well covered; a beginning is made with the cell, the entry of water and solutes are then considered and the loss of water from the plant, metabolism, translocation, respiration, growth. Directional growth responses (tropisms) receive very scant attention. The treatment of every subject is comprehensive and clear and the citations of literature, especially modern work, very full, but little attempt is made at a critical appraisal of this great mass of material which, to many students, may prove bewildering rather than illuminating.