

Life and Living: a Story for Children. By Dr. E. P. Phillips. Pp. xiv+152. (Ashford: L. Reeve and Co., Ltd., 1933.) 5s. net.

DR. PHILLIPS has aimed at presenting the facts underlying problems of life which are usually taboo in the curriculum of the adolescent boy or girl. The delicate, yet straightforward, manner in which he tells the story of sex, evolution and heredity is striking. In fact, we may say that it is the best exposition of the subject of this standard we have read.

The subject matter is one complete whole. The story opens with reflections on life in general. Then follow several chapters devoted to various forms of reproduction in the plant and animal kingdoms, leading up to man. The structure, evolution, and psychology of man is then dealt with in more detail. Civilisation and culture receive treatment in the last several chapters, where marriage, morals and religion are discussed.

It is a pity that Dr. Phillips has not given less space to sex and devoted more to certain other aspects of the biology of life. Much of the material on religion and morals, too, we think, should have been curtailed in a book meant for readers of such tender years.

Unfortunately, people are seldom prepared to buy such books for their children; few schools will be able to afford the price. But, though the aim of the author is rather narrow, and not a general survey of biology, it is an excellent book, and, in schools, would form a splendid supplement to a more formal treatise. As a home reader it is most desirable. The author has a compelling style, and many of the diagrams are well executed and refreshingly original in style.

Invertebrate Zoology. By Prof. Robert W. Hegner. Pp. xiii+570+8 plates. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1933.) 20s. net.

THIS work has grown out of the revision of the author's "Introduction to Zoology" (1912) and is intended for students who have already taken their first course of zoology and desire to obtain a more comprehensive knowledge of the invertebrates. While prepared primarily for American students, and citing wherever possible American examples, it will be found useful by students elsewhere, as it is written in an interesting manner and deals adequately with the principal features of structure and biology of representative members of the respective groups.

The first 118 pages are devoted to the Protozoa and, as would be expected from the author's expert knowledge of this phylum, contain a trustworthy and clear account in which the parasitic forms receive their due, but not an undue, share of attention. Praiseworthy features of the book are its attention to the biology of the groups and the inclusion at the end of each of the more important groups of a brief history of our knowledge of the group. A short bibliography is appended to each chapter. A few of the smaller groups are rather

summarily dealt with; for example, the Brachiopoda, Chætognatha and *Phoronis* are all contained in four pages. The statement that the larva of *Phoronis* resembles a trochosphere may lead to misapprehension, and the body cavity of Nematoda should not be called a coelom. The author has been, as he states, at considerable pains to bring his book up to date and he deserves commendation for his success in dealing with a great body of material so skilfully.

Birds of the Falkland Islands: a Record of Observation with the Camera. By Arthur F. Cobb. Pp. 88. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1933.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE contents of the volume are practically all, if not entirely all, the written result of the author's own seven years' residence on Bleaker Island and other islands of the group. It is not, perhaps, intended to be a scientific treatise on the birds of the Falklands, nor to be an exhaustive list of the birds which occur there; on the other hand, nobody who reads the book can fail to find much in it that is both novel and interesting. No descriptions are given of the various birds referred to. The letter-press deals entirely with notes on the range, habits and nidification of each species. Altogether it gives notes on thirty-one species of birds found on the islands, including geese and ducks, penguins, albatrosses and gulls, waders and birds of prey.

The photographs which accompany the letter-press are very good and are of especial interest; for the author has taken pains to include many which show the type of country the birds inhabit, while there are many excellent plates of breeding haunts, nests and eggs.

This is a little book which can be recommended with confidence to anyone with an hour to spare who would like to learn something hitherto unrecorded about the birds of the far-off Falkland Islands. It is well got up, the printing good and the misprints rare.

Chemistry

Qualitative Chemical Analysis: certain Principles and Methods used in Identifying Inorganic Substances together with a Systematic Survey of the Chemistry of these Materials. By Dr. Roy K. McAlpine and Dr. Byron A. Soule. (Based upon the text by A. B. Prescott and O. C. Johnson.) Pp. xii+696. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1933.) 21s. net.

THIS manual is much more than a treatise on qualitative analysis, since it contains a mass of general information on the elements and compounds which are likely to be met with in the analysis of inorganic materials, including the less common elements. It is provided with full references to the literature. The group separations are the usual ones, but the tables for each group are arranged in an unusual symbolic form which