not pretend to deal with technical applications, and the author succeeds in giving an interesting and critical survey of the subject. The survey is indeed sufficiently critical to bring considerable relief to those who have tried to follow the somewhat contradictory accounts which are to be found in different sources of information. In this connexion, footnotes are avoided, and the author condenses his special notes and criticisms into a valuable appendix, which also contains the necessary original references. Of particular excellence is the chapter on the Townsend discharge with its treatment of corona investigations, and the account of modern methods of active probe measurements in discharge tubes. The whole treatment is thoroughly up to date and can be heartily recommended.

Huxley. By E. W. MacBride. (Great Lives, No. 34.) Pp. 143. (London : Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd., 1934.) 2*s*. net.

THIS is not a very appreciative 'life' of Huxley. Prof. MacBride tells us that although Huxley invented the term 'biology', he was not a biologist but a necrologist "dealing with dried bones, fossils and the materials of dissection". He considers that his scientific fame must undergo some diminution, if evolution by natural selection is a bubble, based on a truism, and the bubble has burst, because he "accepted it wholeheartedly". He agrees that Huxley's definition of the agnostic position "conferred the greatest possible service to modern thought" but, on the other hand, his theory of the relation of mind to matter "if seriously taken and acted on, would destroy the whole basis of morality".

With all these criticisms of Huxley's opinions, of his methods and indeed in some respects of his superficiality (p. 92) the real greatness of the man is almost lost. Credit is indeed given him for his immense influence in spreading the light of the doctrine of evolution ; but few people who knew Huxley personally will feel that in this 'life' full justice has been done to his great power as a teacher, as a reformer of old and obsolete methods and as a desperate fighter for truth against error and superstition. But for all that, as Prof. MacBride always writes clearly and forcibly on all contentious matters, this little book will prove to be of value as it includes what is perhaps the best short statement we have read of the Lamarckian position at the present day, and also a very able counterblast to Huxley's materialism.

Darwin. By R. W. G. Hingston. (Great Lives, No. 27.) Pp. 144. (London : Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd., 1934.) 2*s*. net.

THERE has been so much criticism in recent years of what may be called nineteenth-century Darwinism that we are perhaps losing sight of the great revolution of thought in all branches of learning that was brought about by the "Origin of Species" and the other works of the great English naturalist. In Major Hingston's account of his life we find a full appreciation of the value of his researches and a welcome reminder of the immense value of his philosophy in the promotion of science.

Major Hingston summarises an interesting chapter on the great controversy about the doctrine of evolution in these words : "What the nineteenth century struggled hard to destroy the twentieth universally and quietly accepts, indeed, perhaps accepts too blindly. Darwinism is no longer the brand of Atheism, and Geology lives in peace with Genesis." He distinguishes Darwin the evolutionist from Darwin the natural selectionist and points out, quite justly, that there are but few naturalists now who would regard natural selection to be the whole cause of evolution ; "Yet the whole world," he adds, "has not been able to find a better explanation."

This is an excellent little book, well worth reading and indeed valuable for reference as a brief summary and chronology of the Darwin's life and work.

Wild Flowers in Literature. By Vernon Rendall. Pp. 372. (London : The Scholartis Press, 1934.) 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

ALL can share the heritage of delight which is to be obtained from wild flowers and literature, so that there will be few who will not rejoice to have an anthology which combines them both in association, especially when it comes from the pen of Mr. Vernon Rendall, who tells us that his reading to prepare it has ranged over half a century of his life.

The flowers are arranged in the anthology according to the natural orders, and the quotations come more or less in order of date interspersed with a running comment which is in itself a delight. Where all is delectable each can pick for himself, and although the pedantic may miss his favourite quotation, to have included all would have meant a perfection which in itself would be disappointing. In Nature, there is always the hope for something still more beautiful round the corner, and though we may return home today satisfied that there can be nothing more beautiful and that the quotation perfectly expresses what we have seen, it is comforting also to have the feeling that next week we may experience yet such another moment. To Nature lovers these thrills make up the real joys in life—to relive them at home with the aid of this companionable book is an added blessing for which we are grateful.

The Construction of Man's Family Tree. By Sir Arthur Keith. (The Forum Series, No. 18.) Pp. vi+54. (London : Watts and Co., 1934.) Cloth, 1*s*. net ; paper, 7*d*. net.

IN this little book, Sir Arthur Keith reviews and summarises the attempts which have been made to construct a family tree for man. He begins with Hæckel, and after restating his own position, discusses recent controversy on the position of the anthropoids.