

Official Guide to the Gardens and Aquarium of the Zoological Society of London

By Dr. Julian S. Huxley. New Series. Pp. 116. (London: Zoological Society, 1936.) 1s.

THE new guide to the gardens of the Zoological Society, by Dr. Julian S. Huxley, the secretary of the Society, forms a sharp and striking contrast with the stereotyped form which has done duty for so many generations of visitors. As a guide for those who wish to see the Gardens in one visit it has lost nothing in efficiency compared with its predecessors.

But at the end of their visit they will, almost certainly, carry this little booklet home with them, to read again at leisure, when they will discover how much there is to *learn*, as well as to see, during future visits. These pages, indeed, will open up an entirely new conception of the part the Gardens play as a source of information concerning the animals exhibited here, drawn from the ends of the earth; for compressed within a few pages they will find unsuspected interest concerning their geographical distribution, the marvellous way in which they have become moulded by their mode of life, and something of the meaning of the classification of animals.

W. P. P.

Man who could work Miracles

By H. G. Wells. A Film Story based on the Material contained in his short story "Man who could work Miracles". Pp. 96. (London: The Cresset Press, 1936.) 3s. 6d. net.

IN this film story Mr. H. G. Wells applies again the treatment used in "Things to Come" to material drawn from the fantastic vein of his earlier works. He describes how a draper's assistant in a small town suddenly becomes endowed with miraculous powers, how he uses his newly acquired gifts to further his own desires or those of friends, and how he loses his gift with dramatic suddenness just as he involves the world in disaster. Mr. Wells uses his new technique to expound his familiar theme of man's inability to use wisely the powers with which science has endowed him, and to bring into high relief the moral as well as the material obstacles which beset the transformation of the present situation of unemployment and impoverishment in the midst of overproduction and sabotage into an era of peace and plenitude for all.

A History of Gardening in Scotland

By E. H. M. Cox. Pp. xvi + 229 + 20 plates. (London: Chatto and Windus, 1935.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE ten chapters of this book show that all aspects of the subject have been given due attention, ranging as they do from the earliest times to the accession of King James VI; the start of the country house; the age of the formal garden; the natural type of garden; the Victorian garden; botanic gardens; seedsmen, nurserymen and market gardens; college gardens; horticultural societies and flower shows and the gardener.

Early records are very few and uninteresting; they serve to show, however, that such cultivation as

existed in the earliest times was almost exclusively fostered by the many monastic establishments. The unsettled state of the country and the lack of any security of land tenure in the earlier days did little or nothing to encourage either horticulture or agriculture in Scotland.

Not the least interesting portion of the book is the various lists of hardy fruit commonly grown, also lists of orders for vegetable seeds. We need only mention one dating back to 1689 which shows a surprising variety for that period.

There are several appendixes, a glossary and bibliography. There are also two good indexes, one devoted to the names of places—a valuable innovation.

More than twenty excellent illustrations add materially to the charm and interest of an attractively produced book. It should have a wide appeal to all interested in the history of gardening in Scotland, which, for many years, has been noted for the high cultivation of its gardens under often somewhat difficult climatic conditions, to say nothing of the fame of the Scottish gardener, which is world-wide.

Notes on Organic Chemistry

By Prof. F. Francis. Pp. viii + 525. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1935.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS book is on novel lines, and is likely to be of great use to honours and research students as well as to lecturers and workers in organic chemistry. The author sets out in short crisp paragraphs notes on a large variety of pertinent subjects. These include organic reactions, the hydrocarbons, their halogen derivatives, the reactions of unsaturated substances, oxidation and synthetic methods. The subject matter is printed on one side of the page only so that the worker can add his own notes. References are given to other sources of information, in particular to summary articles.

The book forms a mine of information gathered over many years by one who has high repute as a teacher and worker, and should prove a great saver of time to its possessors. Its price is remarkably reasonable.

Steel and its Heat Treatment

By D. K. Bullens. Third edition, rewritten and reset. Pp. xiii + 580. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1935.) 25s. net.

THE only addition to this issue of "Steel and its Heat Treatment" is a chapter on nitriding, contributed by Dr. V. O. Homerberg. In the space of sixteen pages a brief outline is given of the nature and conduct of the nitriding process, of the steels suitable for nitriding, and of their properties after treatment. Otherwise the book remains the same, although eight years have passed since the preparation of the previous edition. There is still, therefore, no reference to the notched-bar impact tests to which British metallurgists rightly attach so much importance, to grain size control (although this originated in America), to the newer types of stainless steels, or to manganese-molybdenum steels.