Safety in Mines Research Establishment Bibliography, 1960

Compiled by E. B. Smith. Second edition. Pp. viii+177. (Sheffield: Ministry of Power, Safety in Mines Research Establishment, 1960.) 17*s.* 6*d.*

THE organization known since 1950 as the Safety in Mines Research Establishment of the Ministry of Power has operated in one form or another since 1908. It has made noteworthy contributions to knowledge not only of the immediate problems of safety in mines connected with dusts, ventilation, inflammable gases, explosions, roof control, methods of working, lighting, health of the miner, electrical hazards, materials used in mining, and so forth, but also of fundamental scientific knowledge to a whole wide range of subjects which affect mining and mining conditions. These include physics of liquids and of fine particles, gas flow, ignition and combustion of gases and solids, flame propagation and explosions, metallurgy, coal constitution, palæobotany, medical science, etc.; this list is not exhaustive, but is a selection to show the breadth of interest of the Establishment as a whole. There are, in fact, more than 1,500 entries in this comprehensive bibliography (which supersedes the Safety in Mines Research Establishment Bibliography, 1921–52, and includes publications up to the end of 1959, as well as references to international conference papers translated and published by the Establishment).

The scope of the Establishment is wide because problems of safety in mines touch almost every science and technology. The bibliography, therefore, will be of interest to workers engaged in many fields of pure and applied science. It is well arranged and well presented for its price; but what a pity that it is stapled in such a way that the sharp ends of the staples can scratch—and in the case of one copy already have scratched—the surface of a polished table.

S. G. WARD

South African Animal Life

Results of the Lund University Expedition in 1950–1951, Vol. 6. Edited by Bertil Hanström, Per Brinck and Gustav Rudebeck. Pp. 553. (Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell, 1959.) 75 Sw. kr.

A CONTINUATION of what has now become a well-known series, this sixth volume follows the style of its predecessors. Like them, it is particularly pleasant to use because the various type-faces are well-chosen and attractive, and combine to make the text most readable. The crown octavo pages are bound in such a way that the volume stays open without trouble. A consistent editorial policy makes all papers present equivalent information: synonymy; systematic notes; descriptions of new genera and species; detailed and general distribution. The volume as a whole is rather lightly illustrated, though some papers have good figures.

This sixth volume includes accounts of the following groups of animals, as they were represented in the collections made by the Lund University Expedition during 1950–1951: Hirudinea (I. Sciacchitano); Diplopoda, Penicillata (B. Condé); Collembola (J. Paclt); Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae-Hopliini (H. Schein); Bostrychidae (J. M. Vrydagh); Erotylidae (H. Philipp); Endomychidae (H. F. Strohecker); Colydiidae (R. D. Pope); Monommidae (H. Freude); Cerambycidae (F. F. Tippmann); Chrysomelidae I (G. E. Bryant); Chrysomelidae II (J. Bechyné); Curculionidae, part (G. A. K. Marshall); Curculionidae-Brachycerinae (E. Haaf); Neuroptera, Planipennia II (B. Tjeder); Diptera, Culicidae (J. Muspratt); Ceratopogonidae (B. de Meillon); Mydaidae (M. Bequaert); Stratiomyiidae (E. Lindner); Phoridae (E. M. Beyer); Dorilaidae (Pipunculidae) (D. E. Hardy); Chloropidae (C. W. Sabrosky); Hippoboscidae (J. Bequaert); Streblidae (B. Jobling); Calliphoridae (F. Zumpt); Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae (P. L. G. Benoit); Gasteruptionidae (J. J. Pasteels); Megalyridae (K. J. Heqvist); Sapygidae (P. L. G. Benoit); Pompylidae (G. Arnold); Amphibia (R. F. Inger).

There is a contents page, but this volume is not separately indexed.

H. OLDROYD

Les Observatoires Astronomiques et les Astronomes

Par Fernand Rigaux. Pp. ii+452. (Bruxelles: Observatoire Royal de Belgique, 1959.) n.p.

THIS is a new edition of a work which appeared originally in 1931 and has been very useful as a reference book. Many astronomers must have regretted frequently that the only supplement was made in 1936, so that the work was no longer of any use. It gives the names of the astronomers in all the principal observatories, and a brief description of the instruments to be found in them, and in addition it gives the addresses of retired observatory astronomers, university professors and lecturers interested in astronomy, and indeed of prominent amateur astronomers.

While the Royal Observatory of Belgium, and Fernand Rigaux in particular, are to be congratulated on the production of a new edition, it is impossible not to regret the fact that the information which now appears is four years out of date, at least so far as several British observatories are concerned that I have checked in detail. One might also suggest that a formidable book of 452 pages is not really necessary to convey the information. It is possible to criticize the lay-out, which seems to be very wasteful of space.

I would be heartily in favour of bringing out this reference book more frequently in a handier and cheaper form.

R. v. d. R. WOOLLEY

The Faith of a Physicist

By Dr. H. E. Huntley. Pp. 159+4 plates. (London: Geoffrey Bles, Ltd., 1960.) 16*s.* net.

IN a foreword to this book, Prof. C. A. Coulson commends it "as an honest attempt to help others to see the present status and future possibilities of science. In its simple and direct style it can hardly fail to instruct and to encourage its readers".

It is desirable that writers with a special knowledge of one branch of science should, on occasion, relate their scientific outlook to their attitude towards the Christian faith. This the author, lately professor of physics in the University College of Ghana, has done. In the first chapter, "The Status of Science", Prof. Huntley maintains that science "is not only more than technology; it is more also than a social force of unprecedented power. *Science is a revelation and its study is a religious activity*". Successive chapters expand this theme in relation to such subjects as education, beauty as revealed in Nature and the stature of man.

A feature of the book is the number of literary quotations which the author uses to illustrate his argument.

H. D. ANTHONY