

SHORT REVIEWS

A Bibliography of the Honourable Robert Boyle, Fellow of the Royal Society

By Prof. John F. Fulton. Second edition. Pp. xxvi+217. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1961.) 50s. net.

THE late Prof. John Fulton's *Bibliography of the Honourable Robert Boyle* has now appeared in a second edition, almost thirty years after the first edition was published in the *Proceedings of the Oxford Bibliographical Society*. Addenda to the first edition were also published by this Society in 1933 and 1947. In its revised form this exhaustive bibliography, with its scholarly annotations, has now been issued in one volume by the Clarendon Press, Oxford. To this volume Prof. Fulton has contributed a new preface, in which attention has been directed to changes rendered necessary as the result of newly acquired information. The preface to the first edition has been reprinted with "some omissions, several corrections, and a few added notes". This preface also contains some interesting notes on the dispersal of Boyle's library. Major changes are few. The discovery by Miss M. E. Rowbottom (Wellcome Historical Medical Museum) in 1950 of a new and, incidentally, the earliest published writing of Boyle has necessitated an addition to the list of his works; and references to the large number of papers and monographs dealing with various aspects of Boyle's life and work that have appeared since the first edition have also been added. It is a great convenience to have all this information incorporated in a single volume; and historians of science, librarians, bibliographers, book collectors and antiquarian booksellers will all be permanently indebted to Prof. Fulton for his work.

V. A. EYLES

The Annual of the British School at Athens

No. 55, 1960. Pp. x+238+59 plates. (London: British School at Athens, 1961.) 63s. net.

THIS volume from the British School at Athens includes a variety of interesting material. It begins with a report on the rest of the pottery found at Karphi during 1937-39 with some observations on the relationship between the designs which appear on the painted wares and the patterns used for textiles. Then there is Part I of a survey of pre-historic Laconia from the Neolithic period into the Bronze Age and even, in some cases, continuing on to Hellenistic and Roman times. This is a little-known area, the scene of many incidents in the Homeric poems and other writings, and few excavations have taken place there. It is followed by a consideration of Minoan trade relations as reflected by the Minoan objects found in Cyprus. Four white 'lekythoi' in the National Museum at Athens are also described and some Euboean floral black-figured vases in the Museum at Chalcis. There is also a discussion of the shrine of Kodros, Neleus and Basile at Athens.

Work at Knossos is represented by reports on the excavation of a well containing Protogeometric and Geometric pottery and also of Protogeometric graves at Agios Ioannis. Several inscriptions at Chios provide the material for a review of the local early

tribal organization, and a fragment in the Piraeus Museum forms the basis for a brief study of the cult of Apollo Delios. It is followed by interesting discussions of the Sibylline tradition at Delphi and of the connexion between the small clay nodules stamped with seal impressions, known as *cratulae*, and the Linear A accounting system. The volume ends with some further consideration of architectural questions concerned with the Temple of Poseidon at Sunium. Numismatics and later work are both represented in a survey of the influence of the base silver deniers made at Tours in the thirteenth century A.D. on the coinage of Frankish Greece. Altogether a useful volume full of good things. JOAN LIVERSIDGE

Observations and Experiments in Natural History

By Alan Dale. Pp. viii+154+8 plates. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1960.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE aim of this book is to appeal to young scientists. It is designed to encourage their own observations and experiments—two essentials for anyone taking up a scientific career.

The book consists of notes of observations and experiments carried out by the author and others, and also suggestions for the reader's own activities. Sometimes a problem is posed, and a line of experiment suggested, leaving the reader to discover the answer. Wherever appropriate, broad or detailed biological facts are included.

There are six chapters. The first is an introduction. The others cover: invertebrate animals, excluding insects; insects; vertebrate animals; lower plants; higher plants. As these titles suggest, a wide field is covered and, therefore, a little is learned about a lot. This prevents the book from being a specialist or text-book, and, instead, acts as a stimulus. This also accounts for the lack of continuity in style. Each chapter is written in note form, with titles and sub-titles. There are many small black-and-white figures, and eight black-and-white full-page plates.

The book should interest all young people with a natural curiosity, not only those with an eye on their future. B. J. G. MITLAND

Contributions to the Systematics of Oriental Termites

By M. L. Roonwal and P. K. Sen-Sarma. (Entomological Monographs, No. 1.) Pp. xiv+407. (New Delhi: Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 1960.) Rs. 12; 19s.

FIVE papers dealing with the systematics of termites from the oriental region are presented here in one volume, the publication and distribution of which would appear to have suffered a delay of more than three years. Related contributions by Dr. Roonwal and his colleagues have continued meanwhile to appear in a variety of scientific journals, resulting in some confusion in the chronological sequence of their series.

Four papers are short and deal with a variety of genera in several sub-families of the Termitidae. The fifth paper, comprising 181 pages and 46 plates, is a