THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1919.

ZOOLOGY AND HUMAN WELFARE.

Animal Life and Human Progress. Edited by Prof. Arthur Dendy. Pp. ix+227. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1919.) Price 10s. 6d. net.

THIS volume is the outcome of a series of public lectures organised by Prof. Dendy at King's College, London, in 1917-18 under the auspices of the Imperial Studies Committee of the University of London. The object of the course was to inform the public regarding zoological results already applied in furtherance of human progress, and to emphasise the claims of zoological science to recognition on terms of equality with other departments of learning. The college and the editor are to be congratulated, not only on their courage and public spirit in having, during the dark days of the war, arranged a course which makes so much for enlightenment and for reconstruction, but also on having made the subject-matter accessible to all through the medium of this volume. The lectures are most informing, and if we express regret at the absence of consistently full citation of the authors quoted, this is done in tribute to their permanent value.

Prof. Dendy contributes the preface and an opening lecture on "Man's Account with the Lower Animals." To the weighty material items in that account he adds the pregnant idea that much of our æsthetic sense is founded on insect æsthesia, since the marvellous forms, colours, and fragrances of flowers arose "in the course of evolution in response to what we may fairly call the tastes of insects long before man appeared on the scene." Prof. Bourne adds a thoughtful essay on "Some Educational and Moral Aspects of Zoology." Prof. J. A. Thomson writes with his usual vivid grace and wealth of illustration on "Man and the Web of Life." Mr. Tate Regan discusses "Museums and Research," incidentally putting in a strong plea for the view that evolution has been mainly adaptive, and that a change of structure has followed, not preceded, a change of habits.

"The Origin of Man" is dealt with by Prof. Wood Jones, who concentrates on primitive anatomical features exhibited by man, differences between man and other Primates, certain striking resemblances to Tarsius, and the probable remoteness of origin of the human stock. With perhaps a little special pleading one could use a good many of his data in a thesis having for its subject "Non-Arboreal Man." "Some Inhabitants of Man and their Migrations" is the subject of Dr. Leiper's lecture, which will be read with all the more interest in view of his own recent researches on Bilharzia. In "Our Food from the Sea" Prof. Herdman emphasises the vital importance of sea fisheries, while "Tsetse-

Flies and Colonisation" receives exposition from Prof. Newstead.

"I saw before me a great place where men and women were making and imparting knowledge." Thus begins Prof. Punnett's "dream" at the end of his most readable lecture on "The Future of the Science of Breeding." May the dream come true for every branch of zoological science. Meantime we find emphasised, over and over again, in the work before us a sad disproportion between the public support given to the study of animal life and the splendid results this study has achieved and can yet achieve for the furtherance of human progress.

J. F. GEMMILL.

WAR GLEANINGS.

A Vision of the Possible: What the R.A.M.C. Might Become: An Account of some of the Medical Work in Egypt; together with a Constructive Criticism of the R.A.M.C. By Sir James W. Barrett. Pp. xx+182. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1919.) Price 9s. net.

SIR JAMES BARRETT has added another vigorous and stimulating book to those he has already published dealing with military medical matters in the past war. The book treats mainly of questions which came under his notice whilst serving in Egypt, where he held posts which enabled him to gain a broad outlook, as they gave him an insight into the workings of the military medical organisation, not only at its local centre, but also in many of its peripheral sections. His dicta have therefore the refreshing qualities of first-hand observations in many fields with which he was familiar. It must be added that they are not less dogmatic when relating to spheres with which he was less well acquainted; but there is always a note of sincerity and conviction which compels attention.

The first section gives a general account of the author's activities as an aural specialist, and describes, by means of actual instructions issued, the improvements in the treatment of ear diseases and in the disposal of the men suffering from them which were effected. In this connection stress is rightly laid on the advantages gained by "the educational means adopted. The whole service was taken into confidence, the problem was explained, and the help of the medical officers was invited."

It may be asked why so much education in the treatment of ailments common in the civil population was required by medical men taken for the most part straight from civil practice. This the author explains in a later section of the book, where he says: "The training of the average medical man is intense and narrow; all his energies are concentrated on one problem, doing the best for the sick man professionally. He consequently speculates on remote risks. . . .