

can be compared with the corresponding dimensions of the specimens figured.

As the entire work is practically an atlas (the text, which is almost solely concerned with the methods of measurement, occupying only fifty pages), there is really no field for criticism. The figures, though perhaps a trifle crude, appear to be very accurate, and even in the case of the smaller teeth the details of structure are fairly well apparent. Practically the only criticism we have to make is that in plates 33 and 35 the last two upper molars of the jackal and Arctic fox are placed in positions different from those they occupy in the jaw, whereas in the case of the dog (plate 32) and fox (plate 34) they are correctly orientated. The work must have involved an enormous amount of labour, and the author is to be congratulated on the manner in which he has carried out what could scarcely have been anything else but a wearisome task.

R. L.

*The Children's Book of Stars.* By G. E. Mitton. Pp. xii+207; illustrated. (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1907.) Price 6s.

As a book for the instructors of small children, this volume should prove useful. As a book for the unaided juvenile, we fear that the "conventional phraseology" which the author deplores in ordinary text-books has not, even here, been sufficiently eliminated. It is, indeed, a very difficult matter to escape wholly from this evil when instructing juveniles, but, on the whole, the writer of the work under notice has succeeded admirably.

The arrangement of the matter is on familiar lines. The earth, the moon, the planets, the sun, comets, meteors, constellations, stars, and nebulae are successively treated, concisely and clearly. The analogies by which the different points are illustrated are generally well chosen and apt, and are likely to be easily understood by the young people to whom they are expounded. The chapter (xii.) on "What the Stars are made of" appears to us, despite the relative difficulty of the subject of spectrum analysis, to be one of the simplest in the whole book. The volume contains but very few mistakes, though it is curious that the one in this chapter, on p. 169, should have been overlooked. In describing the preceding plate, which shows the coloured spectra of the sun and Sirius, the latter is called Arcturus, although on the plate and later in the same paragraph it is correctly named.

The illustrations are striking, the majority of them being printed in colours, but we fear that the juveniles to whom some of them would appeal would be hopelessly at sea if given the book to read by themselves. Whilst we are doubtful as to the value of the book if used in this way, there can be no doubt that to children of older growth who have young minds to train it will fill a gap, enabling them—with a few hours' start—to answer clearly all those questions which are bound to be asked if the previous instruction has been at all successful.

W. E. R.

*Cradle Tales of Hinduism.* By Sister Nivedita (Margaret E. Noble). Pp. xv+343. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1907.) Price 5s. net.

MISS NOBLE, urged by an enthusiasm for modern Hinduism as preached in Bengal which is shared by few of her countrywomen, has edited a pleasant selection of the classical religious tales of India. She divides them into several cycles—snake tales; the story of Siva; Indian wifehood, including the famous tale of Nala and Damayanti; selections from the Mahabharata and Ramayana epics; the adventures of Krishna; tales of the devotees and of great kings. The tales, of course, are derived from a literature

familiar to all scholars, and Miss Noble would perhaps have done more useful service to folk-lore by collecting some of the great mass of folk-tales hitherto unrecorded. Her version is pleasant and interesting, but we are doubtful of the prospects of its success in English nurseries.

These stories exhibit too much of the dreamy mysticism of the East, and while largely occupied with phases of religious feeling, possess too little of that spirit of pure adventure which our children in their fairy-tale books are accustomed to expect. To those unfamiliar with classical Hindu religious literature they will form a useful introduction. The reader, however, will be well advised to accept these versions with some reservation, for a double reason. In the first place, there is too much of the Bengali spirit in them; secondly, all the eroticism and coarseness which are unhappily so prominent in this literature, and especially in that characteristic of Bengal, have necessarily been rigidly suppressed, and the student who reads these stories for the first time may be led to form an impression of their delicacy and purity of sentiment which will soon be dissipated on acquaintance with the originals.

The author, again, has hardly kept herself in touch with recent folk-tale study in India. In discussing the Krishna cycle, she appeals to native scholars for the dissection of the varied elements out of which it has obviously been composed. Here she is likely to be disappointed, because critical analysis of a sacred literature of this kind is hardly to be expected from faithful believers. If she had been aware of recent contributions to this subject, such as Mr. J. Kennedy's essay in a recent number of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, and other earlier studies of the same kind, she would probably have modified the rather crude suggestions contained in her preface. Hinduism possesses many merits of its own, but its claim to the attention of the West will not be advanced by carefully ignoring its most prominent characteristics.

*Lehrbuch der mikroskopischen Technik.* By Dr. Bernhard Rawitz. Pp. viii+438. (Leipzig: W. Engelmann, 1907.) Price 12 marks.

THIS book gives a very complete summary of modern methods employed in microscopical research as applied to animal tissues. The introductory chapter on the microscope is very brief; probably the author considered this part of the subject hardly came within the scope of his compilation. On the other hand, the preparation of material, hardening, embedding, and staining are dealt with at considerable length, and in the second part of the work the application of the methods to particular tissues and organs is detailed in a complete and thorough manner. When treating of apparatus, the author has avoided anything which simulates a list from instrument makers' catalogues, often a difficult matter in a work of this kind.

General staining methods occupy some sixty-five pages, and here we find an extremely useful summary of the uses and application of a large number of stains. Naturally German methods occupy the forefront, and the British reader misses references to such well-known modifications of the Romanowsky stain as the Leishman and the Wright.

In the second part every tissue and organ is separately considered, and the particular methods applicable in each case are detailed at greater or less length. Thus the nervous system has some seventy pages allotted to it. Little or nothing of importance seems to have been omitted from the book, which is adequately indexed, and should form a very useful compendium for the laboratory.

R. T. HEWLETT.