

known as the capercaillie, or cock of the woods—the *Tetrao urogallus* of naturalists—and Mr. Harvie-Brown tells us the story of its extinction and revival in the interesting volume now before us.

The capercaillie, as Mr. Harvie-Brown after much discussion, decides that the name is most correctly written, was certainly a not unfrequent denizen of the pine-woods of Scotland and Ireland in former days, but, for some not yet clearly understood reasons, became gradually rarer in both countries, and according to the best evidence was finally extinct between the years 1745 and 1760, although there are several records of its alleged occurrence in Scotland at a later date, which Mr. Harvie-Brown considers "at least worthy of notice." In 1807 a capercaillie is said to have been shot in the Camus-na-gaul woods opposite Fort William, but this must have been the last survivor of the ancient race, for it is allowed on all sides that at the beginning of the present century the capercaillie could no longer be reckoned as an existing "British bird." Its reintroduction was effected by the late Marquis of Breadalbane in 1837 and 1838, after several ineffectual attempts. Living birds obtained in Sweden through the instrumentality of Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton and by the energy of Mr. Lloyd, the well-known Swedish sportsman and naturalist, were transported to this country and safely delivered at Taymouth under the care of English gamekeepers. About forty-eight individuals were imported in these two years, some of which were turned out, while others were kept in captivity for breeding purposes. So well did they succeed that in 1862 or 1863 their numbers on the Breadalbane estates were estimated to be at least 1,000, whilst according to other accounts they reached at this period to over 2,000 in number. From the Taymouth woods the capercaillies spread gradually over the adjacent districts of Central Scotland, wherever fir-woods prevailed suitable to the habits and food of the bird. Mr. Harvie-Brown gives us details of their first appearance and present numbers on various estates in Perthshire, Forfarshire, Fife, Kinross, Clackmannan, and Stirling, besides other outlying counties. A neatly executed map enables us to realise at one glance the statistics that Mr. Harvie-Brown has so diligently collected. "The capercaillie then," he concludes, "has populated the woods and forests of part of Scotland principally by its own exertions, since the great restoration at Taymouth; but there are certain minor centres of introduction which have undoubtedly added some impulse to their advance, though perhaps not to any extent compared with the impulse from the great centre." All naturalists must, we are sure, feel indebted to Mr. Harvie-Brown for the pains he has taken in investigating this interesting subject, and will congratulate themselves upon the restoration of this noble species to the British avifauna.

OUR BOOK SHELF

San Remo and the Western Riviera, Climatically and Medically Considered. By Arthur Hill Hassall, M.D. (London: Longmans and Co., 1879.)

DR. HASSALL has written a really useful work on a part of the Italian coast possessing many points of interest, more especially to those affected with chest diseases. He himself has spent two winters in the Western Riviera, and during that period has diligently collected informa-

tion by personal observation and otherwise on the spot. Partly in this way, and partly by consulting authorities on the topography of the district, and with the help of specialists in various departments of natural history, Dr. Hassall has compiled a work which may be taken as a full and trustworthy guide by all who wish to visit the Riviera either for pleasure or health. There are a few attractive illustrations and a good map.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

[The Editor urgently requests correspondents to keep their letters as short as possible. The pressure on his space is so great that it is impossible otherwise to ensure the appearance even of communications containing interesting and novel facts.]

An Index to Zoological Genera

THE Smithsonian Institution at Washington will publish at an early day an index, in one alphabet, to all genera hitherto proposed in zoology, whether for recent or fossil animals. It is to be based upon the "Nomenclators" of Agassiz and Marshall and the indexes to the *Zoological Record*. The name of the genus will be followed by the name of its proposer, the order to which it is referred, the date of its publication, and the symbols A., M., Z., or App. (to indicate that a full reference may be found in [A.] Agassiz's "Nomenclator," [M.] Marshall's "Nomenclator," [Z.] the *Zoological Record*, or [App.] the Appendix to the proposed work), thus:—

Donachlora, *Sodoffsky*, Mamm., 1837, A.

Dorcasia, *Gray*, Gaster., 1847, M.

Loganius, *Chapuis*, Coleopt., 1869, Z.

Periplacis, *Geyer*, Lepid., 1837, App.

Names to which objection has been raised will be prefixed by an asterisk.

The appendix referred to will record in greater detail names which have been overlooked in the lists above mentioned, or have been published since 1877, the year reviewed in the last *Zoological Record*.

The object of this communication is to invite at once from European zoologists, and especially from palæontologists, lists of such names as should appear in the appendix. Such names (including corrections of any kind to the text of Agassiz's or Marshall's Nomenclators) should be accompanied by the name of the proposer of the genus, full bibliographical reference, date, etymology, and the order of animals to which the genus is referable. *In the Index the name of the person furnishing the reference will also be added as its sponsor.*

Many American zoologists have promised their assistance, but it must be evident that a work so extensive and of such universal value can only be satisfactorily prepared by the aid of European naturalists. As it is expected that the MS. of the Index will be ready by December 1 next, friends of the plan are earnestly invited to communicate with the subscriber at the earliest possible day.

SAMUEL H. SCUDDER

Library of Harvard University, Cambridge,
U.S.A., September 22

The Mineral Waters of Hungary

THE numerous mineral waters of Hungary, some of which are used as table-waters, while others are prized for their medicinal properties, are unfortunately very imperfectly known either to the scientific world or the general public, and, what is worse, many of the particulars which have been published about them are altogether incorrect and misleading.

There are a number of balneological works treating of the European mineral springs generally, which include descriptions of those of Hungary, but in almost all cases these descriptions are either obsolete or unreliable. That such incorrect statements should appear in the works of foreigners is perhaps excusable, when we consider the difficulties under which the authors must labour in seeking to obtain information upon the subject; but we may fairly expect that a work published in Hungary should be without any such serious errors. It is a most unfortunate