

definition making, and so on, are also, he maintains, of great value. The book has been read critically by numerous teachers—some of whom are well known experts—so that it ought to be well-nigh faultless within its limits. The descriptive part begins with insects, leaving difficult groups like Protozoa and Coelentera to near the end; it is elementary in its mode of treatment, with refreshing breaths of the open air, admirably free from technicalities, and always clear. But the author has tried far too much, and his terseness is repeatedly gained at the expense of accuracy. We do not see the object of attempting a complete survey in a book like this, of dragging in sirenians and brachiopods—the whole show, in short—when the exigencies of space appear to have made it impossible to say about many classes anything worth reading. If the author had been less ambitious of completeness, his book would have been more useful. The practical part of the book, which includes a large variety of material, and mostly consists of simple directions and suggestive questions, is in our opinion a much stronger piece of work. The studies on insects, the crayfish, the earthworm, the turtle, the snake, the rabbit, and many more, considered both as intact living creatures and as objects for anatomical analysis, are admirably conceived and well worked out. The Socratic method is adhered to throughout, and the practical volume will be found very valuable both by teachers and students. It presupposes for the natural history lessons more time and more freedom than is usually allowed in Britain. It should also be noted that there are terse directions on several topics which are rarely alluded to in books on practical zoology, such as skinning birds and mounting insects. Our general impression is that Prof. Colton, who is evidently a skilful teacher, should have expanded and illustrated the *practical* part of his book, incorporating in it all that is personal and distinctive in the *descriptive* part.

J. A. T.

*Among the Garden People.* By Clara D. Pierson. Pp. viii+236; illustrated. (London: John Murray, 1904.) Price 5s.

Our American friends, if not actually ahead, are well up to our level in the matter of encouraging and protecting the native birds of gardens and plantations, and the author has therefore been well advised in arranging for an English edition of the work before us. She has been equally well advised in changing the original title of "Dooryard Stories" for the one this dainty little volume now bears, for few amongst us, we think, are aware that "dooryard" is American for "garden." The American title is, however, still retained in the page-headings.

The book is essentially one for juvenile readers, being written in the form of simply worded stories, in which the birds are made, so far as possible, to tell their own tale according to what may be supposed to be their own ideas. Despite a certain amount of confusion which is almost sure to arise from the misappropriation of the names of familiar English birds for totally different American species, it is certainly an important element in the natural history education of young people that they should be made to understand that the birds of distant lands differ markedly from those of their own, and, as the author observes, it may be a decided advantage to those who visit in mature years the New World to have already made some amount of acquaintance with its feathered denizens.

Not that this volume is by any means absolutely restricted to the birds of American gardens, for it tells us a good deal about some of their four-legged enemies, such as red squirrels and chipmunks. Some of the

American names, such as the latter, are explained in a short glossary, in which we are somewhat amused to find the raccoon described as "an American animal, allied to the bear family, but much smaller, and much hunted both for its flesh and its fur." Surely something a little more exact and more to the point could have been supplied by the author's naturalist friends.

The numerous "three-colour" plates are for the most part good and artistic representations of the species they portray, and the volume may be recommended as an attractive gift-book for young people.

R. L.

*New Physical Geography.* By Ralph S. Tarr, B.S., Professor of Dynamic Geology and Physical Geography at Cornell University. Pp. xvi+457. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904.) Price 1 dollar.

As Prof. Tarr says in his preface, the teaching of physical geography is still in its experimental stage. The publication of this volume, which is the third on the same subject by the same author, who now "does not flatter himself that he has produced the ideal," shows there is work yet to be done by teachers of geography. But whether this volume is ideal or not, it is certainly an excellent text-book of the subject. Prof. Tarr begins with a short and not altogether satisfactory chapter on the earth as a planet, and proceeds to a treatment of the lands of the globe. These chapters are followed by descriptions of atmospheric and oceanic phenomena, which are less extended than in the author's previous books, and by an account of the physiography of the United States. The volume concludes with chapters treating of life in its relation to the land, air, and ocean—the last one being called "Man and Nature." Several subjects usually included in books on physical geography are relegated to appendices, and among these may be mentioned: revolution of the earth, latitude and longitude, tides, magnetism, and meteorological instruments. There are 568 illustrations, most of which are of a striking and instructive character.

*Quiet Hours with Nature.* By Mrs. Brightwen. Illustrated by Theo. Carreras. Pp. xvi+271. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1904.) Price 5s.

MRS. BRIGHTWEN writes in a way that is sure to gain the attention of young people. Her sketches are in no sense formal scientific descriptions of the familiar animal and plant life of this country, but they are likely to arouse an interest in natural history and to lead readers to observe for themselves. The book shows clearly how much worth close inspection and study an English garden contains, and rightly indicates there are common phenomena which still remain unexplained. The book is well illustrated and deserves to be a favourite with boys and girls.

*Le Monde des Fourmis.* By Henri Coupin, Lauréat de l'Institut, &c. Pp. 160. (Paris: Delagrave.)

THIS is a small popular book relating to the habits, architecture, and intelligence of ants, and largely consists of extracts from the works of Huber, Forel, Lubbock, Moggridge, and other well known writers, chiefly French and English. The subject of the book cannot fail to interest those previously unacquainted with it, but it contains little that will not be familiar to everyone who has read any recent works on ants. It is very inferior to such a book as Ernest André's "Les Fourmis," published in 1885, but we believe that this has been out of print for some time. We may add that M. Coupin's book contains a few illustrations of a very inferior description.