

nitrites, nitrates, perchlorates, carbonates, silicates, sulphites, sulphates, polythionates, borates, phosphites, and phosphates, and, of course, the groups analogous to each of those mentioned; the sulphates, with their companion compounds, fill more than a third of the volume. A complete index giving the chemical and mineral names is appended.

G. F. H. S.

NATURAL HISTORY OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO.

The Birds of Tierra del Fuego. By Richard Crawshay. Pp. xl+158; illustrated. (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1907.) Price 3l. 13s. 6d. net.

IT was by accident and not by design that Mr. Crawshay visited Tierra del Fuego, and, spending six months there, has been able to give us this sumptuous natural history of a little-known land. His book was badly wanted, for the author is probably right when he doubts "if there is another land on earth concerning which more misconception prevails." From the description given it does not seem a very pleasant place to live in.

"It commonly freezes at midsummer. . . . There is the wind from the everlasting snows and glaciers, always blowing with terrific force and with cutting keenness, yet how invigorating and fragrant with forest and peat and seaweed."

Yet the author expresses himself fascinated by the country, and while allowing that it is no place for weaklings and for those who cling to luxury, he claims that, however rigorous the climate is, it is healthy. This seems to have been its character always, for Sir John Narborough is quoted as writing in 1670, "A man hath an excellent stomach here. I can eat foxes and kites as savourily as if it were mutton. Nothing comes amiss to our stomachs." This is saying a good deal.

Although the title of this fine volume would lead one to expect only an account of the birds, we referred to it just now advisedly as a natural history of the country. For the "preface" (which might perhaps have been more properly the "introduction") contains an excellent and most interesting account of the physical conditions of this remote spot, including the geology, botany (the flora is very much more extensive than might be imagined), the mammals (including the native races of man), fishes, insects, crustaceans, molluscs, &c. There appears to be only one reptile—a little green lizard—and no amphibian.

The birds dealt with in this work do not claim to represent every species occurring in Tierra del Fuego; but they are, the author believes, the most comprehensive collection yet made in the island, and include many recorded from there for the first time. Seventy-nine species are enumerated in the classified list or "index." The orders most numerously represented by species are Passeres, Limicolæ and Anseres. Psittaci and Pici are represented only by a single species. The woodpecker—a splendid scarlet-headed bird—does not seem to be common. The existence of a parrot in these high latitudes as reported by the early voyagers was for a long time discredited. It is common in flocks in the more open portions of the

forest to the south of Useless Bay, but seems to be local and difficult to find. The majority of the species are, however, only summer visitors, and some of these we remember as winter visitors to Uruguay. Five species of goose visit the country or are resident therein, some of which "could hardly be numbered in figures short of millions." An account is naturally to be found of the race horse, loggerhead, or steamer duck, which has constituted one of the wonders of these waters from the time of the earliest navigators, and has been the subject of much controversy.

So little has been observed of the birds of Tierra del Fuego in the country that it was at first surprising to see so large a book on the subject. But the author has quoted very extensively from the writings of Azara, D'Orbigny, Darwin, Gould, and other voyagers and naturalists, although for the most part their accounts of the species treated of relate to other parts of South America and even more distant parts of the world. For instance, although the cosmopolitan barn owl is only doubtfully included, nearly six pages are devoted to it, and the article includes Waterton's well-known account of it in Yorkshire. In this way the author has given his readers a fairly complete and always interesting account of the birds on his list, a fact that will be much appreciated by those interested in birds and living in those remote regions into whose hands the book may by good fortune come.

The volume is well illustrated by twenty-one coloured plates of birds by Mr. Keulemans, and twenty-three plates of scenery and bird haunts, also a map.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

Handbook for Egypt and the Sudan. Edited by H. R. Hall. Eleventh edition, revised, largely re-written and augmented. Pp. xiv+613; with 58 maps and plans. (London: Edward Stanford, 1907.) Price 14s.

THE first edition of this work—"Murray's Egypt"—appeared so far back as 1847, and was a reprint of Sir Gardner Wilkinson's earlier book, "Modern Egypt and Thebes," which had been revised by that great pioneer in Egyptian studies so as to meet, so far as possible, the requirements of a guide-book. From time to time since 1847 additions were made to the original edition, and in 1873, and again in 1880, it was thoroughly re-cast by the Rev. Greville Chester, the Rev. W. J. Loftie, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Phéné Spiers, the latter of whom contributed many new architectural plans. Then followed the editions of 1896 and 1900, edited and revised by Miss Mary Brodrick, with the help of Prof. Sayce and Capt. H. G. Lyons, the director of the Geological and Land Surveys of Egypt. Unfortunately, these last two editions—the ninth and tenth—contained numerous errors and were far from satisfactory, so it is now a pleasure to be able to record the appearance of a new edition, under the editorship of Mr. H. R. Hall, which fully maintains the high standard of Wilkinson's original "Handbook for Travellers in Egypt."

Mr. Hall has thoroughly revised the archæological part of the work. The old division into two parts has been abolished. Many paragraphs have been with advantage deleted and new ones inserted. Several sections have been re-arranged and re-cast, while