

anatomy who wants to learn how the organs of man's body have come to assume their form and structure, but also to the zoologist, who will find in this book a concise statement of the light thrown upon the structure of vertebrates in general by the detailed study of the anatomy and development of one mammal.

The scope of the work is so wide that the reader cannot expect to find accuracy in every detail, or a freedom from time-worn and conventional errors; but, in his preface, "the writer craves the indulgence of those who have directed their special attention to any one of the subjects touched upon," and the impartial reviewer is bound to admit that the merits of the broad view of animal structure given in this book far outweigh its defects, which, on the whole, concern matters of detail only.

But when it is noted that in the second chapter Prof. Wilder properly insists that "the one line of development by which the Primates have become differentiated is in that of their central nervous system, and especially that of the cerebrum" (p. 41), the reader has a right to expect something more than the rather perfunctory account of this system, the influence of which has been paramount in making man what he is. Nor is it too much to expect that a zoologist, even if he has not "directed his special attention" to the question of the distribution of animals, should know that the monotremes do not "occur in New Zealand" (p. 33), and that *Galeopithecus* is not "found in Madagascar" (p. 37)!

In the final chapter a concise and impartial account is given of (a) the Annelid, (b) the Nemertean, (c) Gaskell's (though the name of its author is not mentioned), and (d) the Protochordate theories of the origin of vertebrates; and the author ends his interesting handbook with the quotation from Korschelt and Heider:—"The origin of vertebrates is lost in the obscurity of forms unknown to us. G. E. S.

MAPS OF THE THAMES BASIN.

The Basin of the Thames. (Lettered and Unlettered.) (Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd., n.d.) Price 12s. each

THIS publication consists of two maps, with and without names. The map containing names is well designed and should be of great value for schools.

Contours are shown at 800, 600, 400, 300, 200, and 100 feet, and the areas of equal elevation are distinguished by shades of brown. The rivers are printed in blue, and stand out distinctly from the light brown tints. The names have been carefully selected, only initial letters being shown for towns, while physical names have been printed in a clear but subordinate type. These have followed the lines suggested in a recent map prepared by the Royal Geographical Society.

Local names, such as the New Forest, the Chilterns, the North and South Downs, have been necessarily retained, but to these have been added other names, not so generally well known, but descriptive of physical features. Such are the "Forest Ridges" of

Sussex, Battle Ridge, the Western Downs, the Plain of Selsey, &c. It is to be hoped that these names, which are now generally accepted as being most suitable, will be used in all future maps, as a reasonable uniformity of nomenclature will avoid much confusion in teaching.

Railways, British and Roman roads, and the sites of Roman towns are shown in red. A most instructive lesson will be possible by the use of this map on the difference between ancient and modern lines of communication, and the sites chosen for Roman and modern towns. The map shows clearly that the Roman roads largely followed ridges and avoided river valleys, or, at any rate, kept along the edge of high ground. The Fosse Way, on the eastern margin of the Cotteswold Hills, and the Icknield Way, on the northern slope of the Chilterns, are excellent examples. Most of the Roman towns were situated on higher ground, away from the forests of the valleys, and in positions suited for defence.

The companion map, with no names except initial letters of towns, is disappointing. It was probably essential, for reasons of expense, to keep the representation the same as on the named map, but we feel that it might have been made much more effective if all the contours had been shown from 100 feet to 800 feet, and if the areas they enclose had been marked by clearly defined brown lines. The omission of the 500 feet and 700 feet contour lines means that steep escarpments, such as the southern front of the North Downs, fail to stand out clearly; and the higher valleys, such as those of the Chilterns, are only distinguishable by a close examination of the map. For a map intended for physical teaching the shapes of hill regions are of the first importance, and these need presentation in sufficient detail to give some clue, in connection, of course, with geological maps, to their formation.

It is to be regretted that no county divisions have been placed on the named map. A dotted line, sufficient for reference, would not have spoilt the clearness of the representation and would have been welcome to many teachers.

County boundaries, as studied from political maps, have certainly played too important a part in past teaching, but the regions which they define cannot be ignored in any systematic study of the regional geography of England or in that of local geography.

EARLY VIEWS ON INSECT LIFE.

Experiments on the Generation of Insects. By Francesco Redi, of Arezzo. Translated from the Italian Edition of 1688 by Mab Bigelow. Pp. 160. Portrait, facsimile of original title-page (1768), and 29 plates, besides illustrations in the text. (Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co.; London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1909.) Price 2 dollars.

IN the early days of modern science much pioneer work had to be done in clearing away all manner of crude notions and legends, partly based on ideas and faulty explanations of facts or fables handed down from classical times, and partly on popular notions of later date. More than any writer of his period, Redi,