

Mendel, and Aristotle help to keep the interest from flagging.

The author states in his preface that the book exists for the sake of the practical studies contained in it, and certainly any student who works conscientiously through these can hardly fail to acquire a very sound knowledge of the problems of general biology, and if his work in this direction is supplemented by an equally thorough study of the more special aspects of either zoology or botany his elementary biological training will leave little to be desired. A. D.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*Catalogue of British Hymenoptera of the Family Chalcididae.* By Claude Morley. Pp. vi+74. (London: Printed by Order of the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History); Longmans and Co., B. Quaritch, Dulau and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 3s. 6d.

SOME years ago the Entomological Society of London commenced a "General Catalogue of the Insects of the British Isles," of which, however, only six parts were published, between the years 1870 and 1876, as follows:—Neuroptera, by R. McLachlan; the Ephemeridæ, by Rev. A. E. Eaton; Hymenoptera Aculeata, by F. Smith; Hymenoptera: Chrysididæ, Ichneumonidæ, Braconidæ, and Evaniidæ: by Rev. T. A. Marshall; Hymenoptera: Oxyura, by Rev. T. A. Marshall; and Hemiptera Heteroptera, and Homoptera, by J. W. Douglas and J. Scott. No more appeared; and, of course, those already issued are now somewhat out of date, especially those on parasitic Hymenoptera, largely through the exertions of C. Morley and F. Enock. Since then, however, the Tenthredinidæ, Siricidæ, and Cynipidæ have been monographed by P. Cameron in four volumes issued by the Ray Society; leaving only the Chalcididæ, as the last family of Hymenoptera of which we had no recent compendium of the British species.

The preparation of the present catalogue was undertaken by Mr. Claude Morley, so well known for his work on the British Ichneumonidæ, and edited by Mr. C. O. Waterhouse. Though published by the Trustees of the British Museum, it is practically uniform with the Entomological Society's catalogues already mentioned.

There is little doubt that the order Hymenoptera is the largest of all the seven great orders of insects, and the Chalcididæ, including a large number of small species, almost all parasitic (a very few, however, are believed to be plant-feeders), is by far the largest family. Mr. Morley enumerates 148 genera and 1424 species; and although many of them may probably prove to be synonymous, these will probably be far more than counterbalanced by fresh discoveries when the family is at all adequately known. A great number of species were described by Walker, both in magazines and in separate publications; and to work out his species satisfactorily would be a work of many years. But the best preparation for such an undertaking is a carefully compiled and approximately complete reference catalogue, as the work before us appears to be.

*How to Keep Hens for Profit.* By C. S. Valentine. Pp. ix+298. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 6s. 6d net.

THIS is a well illustrated volume of some three hundred pages. A portion of the material, as the preface points out, has already appeared in the *New York Farmer*. The bulk of the work, with the exception of a chapter devoted to the Indian runner duck, deals

with the breeding and management of the "American hen." The reader will have gathered that the book has been produced on the "other side," but there is much that is of interest to our own countrymen. Government aid, problems of improvement, and many amusing stories of the three-hundred-egg hen, are all dealt with, and now the development grant is in sight several of the hints given might be well worthy of consideration.

The most instructive chapters for the would-be poultry-keeper are those that deal with "Handling the Chicks," "Expensive Accidents," "Diseases," and "Runner Ducks." The book is furnished with an excellent index, and in many ways may be a useful adjunct to the library of the man who keeps poultry for utility purposes only in contradistinction to the breeder of exhibition stock.

*The Prince and his Ants (Ciondolino).* By Vamba (Luigi Bertelli). Translated from the fourth Italian edition by S. F. Woodruff, and edited by Vernon L. Kellogg. Pp. x+275. (New York: H. Holt and Co., 1910.) Price 1.35 dollars net.

A FAIRY tale of three children, who wished to become insects to escape doing their lessons. The two boys wished to be an ant and a cricket, and the girl to be a butterfly. The present volume relates the adventures of the boy who became an ant, among different species of ants, and afterwards among bees. At the end of the book he meets his sister as a caterpillar, and another volume is promised giving her adventures as a butterfly. The book is well illustrated, and the account of insect life appears to be fairly accurate.

*The Thames.* Described by G. E. Mitton. Pp. 56.

*Windsor Castle.* Described by Edward Thomas.

Pp. 56. *Shakespeareland.* Described by Walter Jerrold. Pp. 63. All pictured by Ernest Haslehurst. (London: Blackie and Son, Ltd., 1910.) Price 2s. net each.

IN noticing the first three volumes to be published in this series, the opportunity was taken to praise the beauty of the illustrations and the interest of the text. The present additions are quite up to the standard set in the earlier books. Though evidently not intended to serve any serious educational purpose, the volumes will form very acceptable gift books, and will soon become popular in this capacity.

*A Manual of Geometry.* By W. D. Eggar. In two parts. Part i., pp. xiii+160; part ii., pp. x+178. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1910.) Price 2s. each part.

MANY teachers will welcome the re-issue in two parts of Mr. Eggar's "Manual of Geometry." Part i. will prove of particular value just now, since it covers the work specified in the memorandum issued by the Board of Education on the teaching of geometry to beginners. It may be said that the first part deals with the subjects of Euclid, Book i., and the second with those of Euclid, Books ii. to vi.

*The South Devon and Dorset Coast.* By Sidney Heath. Pp. xvi+445. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1910.) Price 6s. net.

THE latest addition to Mr. Fisher Unwin's "County Coast Series" will form a delightful companion for the visitor to the country lying between Poole on the east and Plymouth on the west. Mr. Heath's miscellany of historical, topographical, and archæological details relating to Devonshire and Dorsetshire is as informative as it is interesting, and the illustrations, which number nearly sixty, make the volume very attractive. There is little doubt that the book will become a favourite with residents in the delightful part of England with which it deals.