

intravenously, according to circumstances, are regarded as potent remedial measures, but still better is the similar use of a hypertonic salt solution, introduced by Dr. Rogers, and minute details are given for its proper administration.

Dr. Rogers also advocates the administration of permanganates, either in solution or in pill form, their action being to oxidise and destroy the toxin. By the adoption of the hypertonic salt injections plus permanganates the mortality in the Calcutta Hospital was about 23 per cent. in 1909-1910, a reduction of more than half the rate obtaining among cases treated with physiological saline solution given intravenously (mortality 51.9 per cent. in 1907). This is a splendid record, and we can only hope that Dr. Rogers's interesting book will be widely read and his methods adopted by all those who have to deal with cholera.

R. T. H.

#### OUR BOOKSHELF.

*A Monograph of the Mycetoza: a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species in the Herbarium of the British Museum.* By Arthur Lister, F.R.S. Second edition, revised by Gulielma Lister. Pp. v + 302 + 201 plates (120 coloured). (London: printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, and sold by Longmans and Co., B. Quaritch, and Dulau and Co., Ltd., and at the British Museum (Natural History), 1911.) Price 30s.

THE Mycetoza are microscopical organisms possessing some of the attributes of both animal and vegetable life, as commonly understood, but they are now generally referred to the vegetable kingdom. They differ from the lower fungi inasmuch as the spores give birth to swarm-cells or moving cells, instead of a mycelium. The swarm-cells coalesce to form a wandering plasmodium, which ultimately develops sporangia, bearing spores inside, or sporophores, bearing spores on the outside. Further, the Mycetoza feed on bacteria. The first edition of the late A. Lister's monograph was published in 1894, and the second edition, now before us, is a revision and augmentation by his daughter, Gulielma Lister.

This work is an official publication of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, and Dr. A. B. Rendle, the keeper, says, in his preface: "A special feature of this edition is the replacement of the collotype plates by a new and more complete series. A large proportion has been reproduced by the three-colour process, and greater justice has thus been done to the original drawings by Mr. and Miss Lister. . . . That so large a proportion are reproduced in colour is due to Miss Lister's generosity. A bibliography has been added, and also a short glossary." The most important alteration is in the nomenclature: the earliest specific name, under whatever genus it may have been published, has now been

adopted, and the starting-point for those names, as well as those for the genera, is the "Species Plantarum" of Linnæus, published in 1753. This has necessitated very numerous changes.

Miss Lister deserves the congratulations and thanks of students for the admirable and authoritative work she has completed. Letterpress and illustrations alike are good, and it should give an impulse to the study of some of the most elegant organisms in nature, open to everyone who can afford a microscope—organisms that abound wherever there is other vegetation, and a collection of which might be contained in a match-box.

W. B. H.

*Evolution in the Past.* By Henry R. Knipe. Pp. xv + 242. (London: Herbert and Daniel, 1912.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

JUST as the researches of Arthur Evans in Greece, and Flinders Petrie in Egypt, have added whole chapters to the history of those countries, so the labours of Cope, Marsh, Osborn, and others in America, Dollo in Belgium, Andrews in the Fayûm, and elsewhere, have contributed so largely to the past records of our earth that we are now almost as well acquainted with its ancient denizens as if they formed a part of its living fauna.

In this happy condition of time and circumstance Mr. H. R. Knipe has brought out his new book, "Evolution in the Past," and having gathered together, from every available source, the latest information on the life history of our planet—from the earliest traces of living things up to the coming of man—and being furthermore aided by the spirited restorations of animals by Alice B. Woodward, and of plant life by E. Bucknall, he has produced one of the most fascinating and readable books of the year.

As a guarantee for the accuracy of the restorations made, the author and the artist have both received valuable help from Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward, Dr. Andrews, Drs. Calman and Bather, and other eminent authorities in the Natural History Museum, who have given them the benefit of their up-to-date knowledge, and carefully criticised the work throughout.

Fifty full-sized plates of animals and six of landscapes in the past render the book attractive to the veriest tyro, whilst the avoidance of technical terms makes the text more agreeable to the general reader, and an excellent holiday companion.

*Leisure Hours with Nature.* By E. P. Larken. Pp. xv + 263. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, n.d.) Price 2s.

MR. LARKEN here provides interesting reading-matter and a profusion of well-reproduced photographs relating to various objects and scenes in nature. The rapid increase in the number of books dealing with nature-study indicates, it may be hoped, not only a growing interest in animate nature, but the development of keener observation of plants and animals among young people.