"partial" correlation, which promises to be so important in the analysis of correlation results. In the discussion of the psycho-physical method of constant stimuli, it is unfortunate that a reference is still made to a method for doing without Gauss's formula in which the mean of a frequency-distribution is "corrected" or "adjusted." It has been known for some years that the mean of a frequency-distribution needs no adjustment. One must hasten to add, however, that the text of this chapter on the psycho-physical methods is exceptionally clear and sound, and is undoubtedly the best elementary account we have of a rather difficult part of psychology.

A JOURNEY TO CANADIAN BARRENS.

The Arctic Prairies: a Canoe Journey of 2000 Miles in Search of the Caribou; being the Account of a Voyage to the Region north of Aylmer Lake. By Ernest Thompson Seton. Pp. xvi+415. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1912.) Price 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

IT need scarcely be said that Mr. E. Thompson Seton's book makes wholesome and exhilarating reading, instinct throughout with its author's sympathy and enthusiasm for wild life. The æsthetic embroidery, while enjoyably present, is kept subordinate to the sincerity and accuracy required of the true naturalist. A six months' canoe-journey was made by the author in the open season of 1907 down the Athabaska River and through the forested country of its lake and river continuations to Lakes Clinton-Colden and Aylmer of the Barren Lands, in lat. N. 64°, a distance, there and back, of some 2000 miles or so; and this is the record of it.

Geographically, the journey was not of high consequence, though Mr. Seton was able to make some additions and corrections to the previous maps, particularly in respect to Lake Aylmer. Nor is there any startling incident of travel to relate, for the adventures and misadventures were just those of every voyageur into the northern wilderness; indeed, the author's capability is best shown by the relative ease with which his task was accomplished. Neither is this a hunter's book; the sportsman-reader will be fretted with the same sense of wasted opportunity that was expressed by Mr. Seton's Indian and half-breed companions, who found it unaccountable that a man should follow the chase so laboriously for the thin satisfaction of seeing animals. Because of these unusual features—and of the author's ever-artistic touch—the narrative is more entertaining than most of its type.

In a highly interesting chapter on the ebb and flow of animal life, the author discusses a series of graphs which he has compiled from the records of the Hudson Bay Company for the years 1821 to 1908, showing the number of pelts of fifteen different fur-animals that have been dealt with annually during this long period. From these statistics certain deductions are drawn, notably that "the high points for each species are with fair regularity ten years apart", (p. 109). In another chapter Mr. Seton deals categorically with the interdependence of the rabbit (*Lepus americanus*) and the lynx, stating that the former increases rapidly to a maximum in spite of its many voracious enemies, and is then suddenly thinned out nearly to vanishing point by epidemic diseases known collectively as "plague," with secondary consequences almost equally disastrous to the lynx population.

Most commendable is the author's ingenious way of treating a recurrent subject that would make "painful and dreary reading" if oft repeated. He asks the reader to allow him, once and for all, a chapter on that terror of the northern wilds, the mosquito; and later allusions to it take the form of a simple "see chap. ix." The idea might profitably be extended by the introduction of standing references of this kind for use in travel-literature in general.

Some vigorous drawings, as well as photographs, of animal life are reproduced as plates, and the book is further illustrated by 125 sketches in the text, which have the live touch that no photograph can convey.

The appendices include full lists (with notes) of the mammals, birds, and plants that were collected or seen; a short list of insects; a "buffalo summary," from which it appears that more of these animals survive in the wild state than had been supposed; and a (reprinted) plea for the introduction of the yak as a range-beast for the north-west.

ELEMENTARY PRACTICAL PHYSICS.

A Laboratory Note-book of Physics. By S. A. McDowall. Part i., pp. viii+166. Part ii., pp. viii+126. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., n.d.) Price 2*s.* 6*d.* net each part.

THOSE who have to deal with large classes in practical physics know how difficult it is for the demonstrator to set and maintain the class going without some aid in the form of printed instructions, such as note-books or separate slips relating to each experiment. This plan is, how-