

## OUR BOOKSHELF.

*Horses.* By Roger Pocock. With an Introduction by Prof. J. Cossor Ewart. Pp. x+252. (London: John Murray, 1917.) Price 5s. net.

THIS is an entertaining little volume, written by one who has spent much of his life among horses as a ranchman; and from the ranchman's point of view he surveys horsemanship the world over. As a standard of comparison this is useful enough, but, unfortunately, it has distorted his judgment. Hence he is led to assure us that "the pleasure horse and his equipment are so highly specialised for running and jumping that they have ceased to possess the slightest value for civil and military working horsemanship." Yet, as a matter of fact, a large proportion of British cavalry has been horsed during the present war by animals taken from the hunting-field. The best bred of these animals, indeed, are generally considered to make the finest cavalry chargers in the world. The author has some pertinent criticisms on our saddles and mode of riding, and on our treatment of horses in and out of the stable, which will at least repay careful consideration from those immediately concerned.

Of his own feats in the saddle he has much to say, and some of these indeed savour of the wonderful. They are, at any rate, eminently readable. Less entertaining are his sneers at the "scientist," whom he regards as "an amateurish, unpractical sort of person, who cannot either ride or cook"—these being the only accomplishments for which he has any regard. His confidence in his powers of observation, and his knowledge of the lie of the land, even in unexplored country, are so absolute that he has no use for either the compass or maps!

In a chapter on the origin of the horse—which he owes to the "scientist"—he assures us that "the bald skin of the pig is boldly painted in splashes of pink and brown to imitate the lights and shadows of forest undergrowth. The forest ancestors of the horse were bald and painted in the same way. . . ." Pink pigs may be seen in our farmyards in plenty, but we know of no wild race similarly coloured, and there is no reason for supposing that the forest ancestors of the horse were "bald."

If the author had adopted a less superior attitude his book would have been even more readable than it is.

*Bacon's New Series of Physical Wall Atlases: British Isles.* Scale 1:1,187,000 (18·7 miles to an inch). (London: G. W. Bacon and Co., Ltd.) Price 26s.

THE seven maps in this series vary a great deal in value. The orographical map, with layers in two colours and showing also trunk railways and Roman roads, the geological map, and the rainfall map are all clear and useful. The isotherm map would be improved by the omission of the mean annual isotherm, which is not only confus-

ing when on the same map as the January and July ones, but of little or no value in geographical teaching. The map showing vegetation and productions is not a success. The large letters to indicate the location of various industries are crowded and somewhat arbitrarily selected. Thus Aberdeen is given no granite industry, while Ballater is; Leeds has no indication of its leather factories, or Elgin of its distilling and brewing. The West Riding coalfield extends much further east than shown. In the population map the many colours employed give a bad impression and make a confused map. The last map, that of communications, might well have been omitted. It shows some of the lines of the various railway companies all differentiated from one another. There seems to be little object in teaching the ownership of each line, but the great objection to the map is the want of any indication of relief. Without this there is no sense in teaching lines of communication. Moreover, the orographical map does all that is required in this matter.

All the maps have the same names printed in ground colour for the use of the teachers. It is useful to have the series all on the same scale, but we are at a loss to understand why this particular scale should have been selected. It does not facilitate comparison with maps on other scales.

*Météorologie du Brésil.* By C. M. Delgado de Carvalho. Pp. xix+527. (London: John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., 1917.) Price 25s. net.

THE publication of this work is very welcome, not only to meteorologists, but also to those having interests in this progressive Republic. Few except those who have had occasion to deal with South American meteorological observations can appreciate the onerous nature of the task which the author set himself in the preparation of this comprehensive climatology of his native country. In most cases the difficulties have been successfully surmounted, with the result that we have put before us in a very readable and instructive form a series of pictures showing not only the diverse character of the climates of Brazil, but also the interconnection that exists between climatic conditions and migration, immigration, and public health. The work opens with a summary of the broad climatic features, and of the local and general conditions affecting them. An interesting section deals with the "action centres" of the atmosphere, and of the genesis of the tropical rains. Nearly two-thirds of the book are devoted to an analysis of climatological data, this section including no fewer than thirty-four separate studies of local climate, the stations selected ranging from Para, near the equator, to Pelotus, in lat. 32° S. In some areas, such as the State of San Paulo, where stations are numerous, much additional information is given, especially regarding the diurnal range of the climatic elements. The unique position which Brazil occupies for a study of various meteorological