

the Zanzibar coast. His correspondence ceases with the middle of 1890. It contains interesting allusions to Dr. Sclater and other English ornithologists, to Dr. Junker, and to members of Stanley's expedition, and a rather pathetic touch in his own assumption of the rôle of the Wandering Jew.

Though this volume deals mainly with the birds of equatorial East Africa, it has some very interesting notes on the mammals. Emin had become aware of the presence in East Africa proper of a striped form of hyena, unknown to him in any survey of the Upper Nile regions. More than this—he has noted hints as to the existence in the Mangbettu or Mabode country, within the north-eastern limits of the Congo basin, of some type of "zebra." There is no zebra—so far as we are advised—within the limits of the Congo basin, or west of Tanganyika, or even of the main stream of the Nile. No type of equine—zebra or wild ass—has been seen west of the Nile within the Bahr-al-ghazal basin. It is clear that these scraps of information reaching Emin indicated not any zebra, straying beyond the habitat of this striped horse, but the okapi.

Dr. Junker, about 1886, wrote a note or two about a large antelope which was found in the southern part of the Mangbettu country, and which had a portion of its hide curiously striped. He seems to have been aware that the creature had cloven hoofs, and therefore did not style it a zebra; but he had evidently seen the strips of striped skin on the limbs of the okapi with which the forest negroes decorated their bodies. Stanley in 1889 heard stories of the okapi from the pigmies, and styled it "a large donkey." This volume will be of very great interest to ornithologists.

H. H. JOHNSTON.

### Our Bookshelf.

*The Clayworker's Handbook.* By A. B. Searle. Third edition, revised, enlarged, and largely rewritten. Pp. viii+381. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd., 1921.) 21s.

THIS handbook is a useful compilation from catalogues, journals, year-books, etc. There is little or no attempt to show the original sources, and special work like that due to Mr. Bernard Moore is incorporated without reference to the discoverer. For the protection of the author himself, it would have been better had he given the authorities for some of the extraordinary statements made. There are so many of these that the book wants using with some caution. For example, it is said that "ball clay should not leave any residue on a sieve of 120 holes per linear inch." Anyone familiar with ball clays knows

that this is wrong, and anyone not familiar with those clays would appear foolish if he rejected a delivery on this authority. We are also told that "enamels are always opaque," and there are several other misleading statements of like calibre. The table of common chemicals and their scientific names and formulæ would be much improved if it was revised by a chemist, for some of the scientific names are hopeless, likewise the formulæ. For example, "sodalite" (common term) is "a felspar" (scientific term); gypsum and plaster are both given the formula  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and the same mistake is made higher up the page, while flint is given as amorphous silica. Some of the names of defects are translated literally from the German, instead of into the terms generally employed in this country.

The book serves a useful purpose; the data are handy for reference, and they are skilfully arranged. It is with the object of getting it seriously overhauled that the unpleasant task of emphasising some of the mistakes has been undertaken.

*Liverpool Marine Biology Committee: L.M.B.C. Memoirs on Typical British Marine Plants and Animals.* Edited by Prof. W. A. Herdman and Prof. J. Johnstone. No. 24, *Aplysia*. By Nellie B. Eales. Pp. viii+84+7 plates. (Liverpool: University Press, 1921.) 4s. 6d.

THE present is the twenty-fourth Memoir, published after a considerable interval, of the well-known L.M.B.C. series. The animal with which it deals is a member of the Opisthobranchiata, one of the two orders of Euthyneura, to the other of which, the Pulmonata, belong the ordinary land snails. Though one of these latter animals is very usually studied in the laboratory as an example of Gastropoda, *Aplysia* presents several advantages as a type for dissection. It is the largest British Gastropod. It exemplifies a number of morphological tendencies, and exhibits intermediate characters between the primitive and more specialised forms. Its internal organs "afford numerous links in the chain of evidence that detorsion has taken place." The palliovisceral nerve cords are long (as in Streptoneura), but uncrossed (as in Euthyneura in general); the nervous system is less markedly concentrated than in many other Euthyneura, and the animal exemplifies the tendency to disappearance of the shell and mantle-cavity.

The present account will be useful as a laboratory guide; directions for dissection are given, intercalated in brackets at the necessary places in the anatomical description, and the plates are adequate in number and clearly drawn. An interesting section on the history of our knowledge of the animal is prefixed.

The first line of the book contains a curious inversion ("The Mollusc of which the present Memoir is the subject"); and the word "factors" on p. 41 (for "tributaries") reads awkwardly.