

particularly valuable. The metallographic side of the subject is less fully dealt with, and the photo-micrographs included do not constitute a representative series. The equilibrium diagrams might well have been omitted, as they bear no indication of the phases present, and the copper-aluminium diagram on p. 125 is impossible. The engineering reader would not derive any information from such diagrams, and the metallurgist would have to look elsewhere for an explanation of them. Mechanical testing is well and clearly described, but it is rather surprising that the now familiar Erichsen test is not included, it being greatly superior to the crude cupping test.

The book was completed too early to admit of the incorporation of the detailed report of the Alloys Research Committee on light aluminium alloys, but we may expect that this section will be expanded in a future edition. The same may be said of the die-casting alloys, as to which more information is now available than the authors have provided. It is certain that the book will be welcomed by engineers, and will be found useful by metallurgists.

*The Literature of the Charadriiformes from 1894-1924: with a Classification of the Order, and Lists of the Genera, Species, and Sub-species.* By Dr. George C. Low. Pp. xi+220. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1924.) 12s. 6d. net.

MUCH labour has obviously been expended in the preparation of this work of reference, and ornithologists must be correspondingly grateful to Dr. Low for his having placed so useful a tool in their hands. Its purpose is to supply a complete guide to the literature dealing with the Charadriiformes in the thirty years which have elapsed since the publication of volume xxiv. of "The British Museum Catalogue of Birds." The labours of other workers in this field will be greatly facilitated by the availability of these collected and classified references. A preliminary chapter discusses the classification and nomenclature of the group, and a second gives references to works of a general kind bearing on the subject. The rest of the book is devoted to references grouped under the names of the ninety-seven genera, in ten families, which Dr. Low admits to the order, and under each genus they are arranged chronologically. Some idea of the bulk of modern ornithological literature may be gathered from the fact that the references to this one order, admittedly an important and interesting group, fill about two hundred pages. Frequent use in actual work is the only true means of testing a book of this kind, but such checks as one can readily impose show that Dr. Low has performed his laborious task with the thoroughness and accuracy for which it called.

*The Irish Setter: its History and Training.* By Colonel J. K. Millner. Pp. 80+8 plates. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby, 1924.) 5s. net.

FROM the introduction we learn that this is the first book devoted solely to the Irish setter. It cannot, however, be regarded as more than a random collection of miscellaneous notes about the breed, and some of its most distinguished representatives, with an admirable chapter on training and a clear description of the points of the breed as approved by the Irish Red Setter

Club. The origin of the Irish setter is apparently shrouded in oblivion. Beyond the suggestion that it has been derived from the red spaniel of the eighteenth century, used largely in hawking, and that its development dates from the beginning of the practice of shooting at flying birds in the last half of the same century, there is nothing really definite that is known, and no records are available which help to establish its history. A century ago there were apparently two distinct strains—red, and red and white, the latter predominating; but with the introduction of dog shows and the somewhat arbitrary requirements of fanciers, the red-and-white strain has largely disappeared. For show purposes only the merest traces of white on the head, chest, throat, and toes are allowable. Mr. S. W. Carlton contributes the introduction, and the book is illustrated by eight half-tone blocks of celebrated Irish setters, taken from the dogs themselves or from oil paintings.

*Automatic Telephones.* By F. A. Ellson. (Pitman's Technical Primers: Double volume.) Pp. xii+215. (London: Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., 1924.) 5s. net.

AT first sight, automatic telephony appears to be a hopelessly complicated subject. Yet next year it will be necessary for all telephone subscribers to begin to get a working knowledge of it, as the British Post Office decided a year ago that automatic equipment is to be adopted in all important areas. We wonder whether in the future it will be well known that the "double dog" is knocked away until the wipers clear the banks and that during this process the stationary dog supports the weight of the shaft. In any case these terms will have to be included in technical dictionaries. The list of British standard terms made by the Engineering Standards Association and included in this volume is excellent. The advantages of the automatic system are the large savings that can be effected in the annual charges, the continuous day and night service, and the increased efficiency and accuracy. The disadvantages are the greater capital cost and maintenance charges, and the increased liability to faults at the subscribers' end. To the intelligent reader who wishes to understand the basic principles of the ordinary systems in use, we can recommend this book.

*Anatolica.* By Harry Charles Luke. Pp. xii+210+40 plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 16s. net.

IN this volume Mr. Luke again shows the knowledge and insight, together with the charm of style, that have made notable his previous volumes on the Near East. Among the flood of books on various parts of the eastern Mediterranean, it is rare to find one written with more authority or marked by greater conciseness and first-hand observation. It is entirely unpolitical, and consists of a series of short essays on various towns and districts, including Mount Athos, Salonika, Adrianople, Cyprus, the Holy Sepulchre, Petra, and the cities of Transcaucasia. The chapters on Cyprus are among the most vivid in the book, and recall the charm of the island. There is a quaint and sufficient map, and the illustrations are well chosen. The coloured frontispiece of Mount Ararat is excellent.