

Faune de France. 13; *Diptères (Brachycères)*. (Stratiomyidae, Eristidae, Ctenomyiidae, Rhagionidae, Tabanidae, Cordidae, Nemestrinidae, Mydidae, Conocephalidae, Therevidae, Omphralidae.) Par E. Séguy. Pp. iii+308. 55 francs. 14: *Diptères pupipares*. Par Dr. L. Falcoz. Pp. 64. 12.50 francs. (Fédération française des sociétés de sciences naturelles: Office centrale de faunistique.) (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1926.)

WE welcome these two additions to that excellent series the "Faune de France." Part 13, by M. E. Séguy, deals with all the families of the so-called Platygenia group of the Brachycera with the exception of the Asilidae. This family, along with the Orthogenia, will presumably form the substance of a future volume. Part 14, by M. L. Falcoz, is concerned with the group Pupipara, and we are glad to note that the Braulidae are no longer included among the latter. These treatises are more especially intended as guides to the identification of the groups concerned, and for this purpose concise family, generic, and specific keys are provided. Further and more detailed characters will be found under each species together with a summary of its geographical range. Special mention needs to be made of the very large number of line figures illustrating important diagnostic features. The biology of these insects is also by no means neglected, and, wherever information exists, some account of larval and pupal structure and habits is given. These two parts are well up to the standard of their predecessors, already noticed in these columns, and they can be recommended to all dipterists as well as to the general entomologist.

A. D. I.

Aeronautical Meteorology. Willis Ray Gregg. (Ronald Aeronautic Library.) Pp. xii+144+11 plates. (New York: The Ronald Press Co., n.d.) 2.50 dollars.

THE aviator's need of a knowledge of weather is vital, but the ordinary meteorologist when trying to provide for it finds it difficult to put on one side the conventional modes of treatment and to remember what is really wanted: thus when describing the upper winds at any place, he is tempted to give the mean wind direction at successive heights, instead of a table of the relative frequencies so that the pilot may know the likelihood of a favourable wind.

However, Mr. Gregg has admirably realised the situation. After an account of the general circulation and of the methods of observation, he naturally deals with American conditions, discussing the vertical structure of the air (but the constancy of e/P on p. 31 should be explained), the change of winds with height and gustiness, fogs and clouds (the photographs of these being excellent), visibility, thunderstorms, cyclones and anticyclones, forecasting, and flying over the North Atlantic and the north polar regions. His 'moving thunderstorm' corresponds with what is called in England a 'line squall,' but its width is given as 40 to 50 miles, the length being 150 to 200 miles. The chapter on cyclones is essentially practical, though interesting theoretical questions

are raised by the predominance of rain to the N.W. of the centre, instead of to the S.W. and S.E., which the Bjerknes theory suggests. We wish that such a book were available for those under British conditions.

Field Astronomy: for Engineers and Surveyors. By Prof. D. Clark. Pp. viii+144. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 10s. 6d. net.

THIS manual provides a concise summary of the astronomical principles and methods of observations employed by surveyors and engineers when requiring absolute positions on the earth's surface in the course of survey work. The contents are lucidly arranged in three chapters, dealing respectively with principles, instruments, and observations. Good type, explanatory diagrams, reproductions of the various instruments used, a number of worked examples, and a bibliography contribute materially to the value of the book. The description of the methods for determining longitude includes full details of the reception of radio signals used for this purpose. Consonant with its title, the book is of handy pocket size. It should be of great use both to engineers, who wish to have the working details of astronomical observations used in the field, and to university students of surveying and geodesy.

A Handbook of Renal Surgery. By F. McG. Loughnane. Pp. xiv+216. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1926.) 10s. 6d. net.

IN his preface to this book, Mr. Loughnane tells us that it is intended for the use of general practitioners and students. The reader will therefore not expect detailed descriptions of kidney operations, which are largely in the hands of specialists. The author concerns himself almost entirely with the investigation of surgical diseases of the kidney, and his accounts of diagnostic methods are clear and complete. The number and quality of the radiographs with which the book is illustrated demonstrate the value of X-rays in this branch of surgery, and it is evident that there are few surgical conditions of the kidney which do not require preliminary radiological investigation. There is a useful chapter on the estimation of renal function.

Chambers's Encyclopædia: a Dictionary of Universal Knowledge. Edited by Dr. David Patrick and William Geddie. New edition. Vol. 9: *Sacramento to Teignmouth.* Pp. iv+904. (London and Edinburgh: W. and R. Chambers, Ltd.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1927.) 20s. net.

THIS useful encyclopædia is now nearing completion. The present volume contains a number of new articles, while the others have been thoroughly revised. Several of the articles are of considerable length and give practically all the information about their respective subjects that the reader or student could desire. The free use of illustrations and diagrams adds to the value of the work. All the longer articles have numerous references to literature. There are eight coloured maps by Bartholomew with new boundaries clearly shown.