

Despite the above shortcomings, Mr. Whistler's work is undoubtedly the best and most comprehensive popular work on Indian birds that has yet appeared and should be of the greatest help to anybody who wishes to know more about the common birds he sees every day in India. In his preface, Mr. Whistler gives us his ideas on classification and some other points which are, perhaps, quite unnecessary in a work of this character. On the other hand, his comments on the points on which further information is still desirable are quite good.

The get-up of the book is excellent, and both the colour plates and woodcuts quite up to the high standard of all Mr. Gronvold's work. We regret that the publishers have found it necessary to use such heavily loaded paper, as the weight of the book makes the reading of it to be literally no light task.

*Seashore Animals of the Pacific Coast.* By Prof. Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson and Harry James Snook. Pp. xv + 659 + 12 plates. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1927.) 32s. net.

THIS book, as the preface tells us, is a non-technical, illustrated account of the structure and habits of the common seashore animals of the west coast of the United States, and it will certainly be a great help to all those interested in shore collecting.

Two things strike the British zoologist about the Pacific fauna: the first is the general similarity to one's own common sea-shore animals, the second the decided differences, for there is really scarcely any common animal of the same species in the two regions. In general agreement are the jelly-fishes, hydroids, starfishes, and sea-urchins, anemones in the rock pools, limpet-like flat mollusks on the rocks, and other gastropods, sand-dwelling bivalves and other numerous sand- and mud-dwellers, but look into these carefully and great differences are seen. There is not one true limpet (*Patella*) mentioned, its place apparently being taken by the more primitive *Acmæa*, and by *Fissurella*, which has its headquarters in those parts; the periwinkles, top-shells, and whelks are all different species, and the same applies to most of the other animals. There are naturally some outstanding differences. A shore characterised by the beautiful 'sea pansy' in the rock pools and by the egg case of *Argonauta* (the Argonaut 'shell') cast up on the beach, is an altogether desirable collecting ground and one looked upon with envy by the Briton who hopes to go there some time.

Altogether an extremely good idea of the shore fauna is given and most of the illustrations are excellent, especially the photographs from life and some outline drawings, such as an atlantid on p. 527 and a diagram of *Tethys* on p. 488. The coloured plates, although giving a good idea of the brilliancy of many of these creatures, are not so well drawn as most of the uncoloured figures.

The authors rightly emphasise the desirability of the living animal being studied and if possible not preserved at all, whilst if aquaria are kept they should have few inhabitants.

*A Glossary of Botanic Terms: with their Derivation and Accent.* By Dr. Benjamin Daydon Jackson. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. xii + 481. (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co., Ltd.; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1928.) 15s. net.

THE late Dr. Daydon Jackson was engaged in the revision of the proofs of this book in its fourth edition at the time of his death. His last contribution to the science that he loved will be of permanent value, and it is to be hoped that in future years some other botanist will continue this valuable work, and that the "Glossary of Botanic Terms" may long be available to smooth the path of the reader who would grapple with the terminology of a very descriptive science.

In the present edition the original pages are reproduced by photo-zincography. There are sixty additional pages of new terms, the results of the sometimes misplaced ingenuity of the botanical writers of the last decade. A list of commonly employed signs and abbreviations follows, and the work terminates with a bibliography of other books of a similar category.

*Topographical Anatomy of the Dog.* By Dr. O. Charnock Bradley. Second edition. Pp. xii + 268. (London and Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1928.) 24s. net.

PROF. CHARNOCK BRADLEY'S excellent manual, "Notes on the Dissection of the Dog," has now grown into an important treatise on canine anatomy, which is not only of interest and value to the veterinary student and surgeon, but also to medical and science students. It is a valuable work of reference to the comparative anatomist.

### Chemistry.

*Anorganische Chemie.* Von Prof. Dr. Robert Schwarz. (Wissenschaftliche Forschungsberichte, Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe, Herausgegeben von Dr. Raphael Ed. Liesegang, Band 16.) Pp. xi + 139. (Dresden und Leipzig: Theodor Steinkopff, 1927.) 8 gold marks.

In this little work the author has attempted to sketch the most important advances made during the years 1914-25 in inorganic chemistry. Since separate volumes in the series deal with the closely related branches of physical chemistry, physico-chemical mineralogy and petrology, colloidal chemistry and atomic structure, and others are to follow on metallography and inorganic chemical technology, attention has been mainly directed to experimental work on the preparation and properties of the elements and their compounds.

A short introductory section deals with the discovery of new elements by means of X-ray spectra, views on the composition of the earth's interior, molecular structure and its relation to the colour of inorganic substances, and with the classification of metallic hydrides. The elements are then all briefly reviewed in the usual groups, nitrogen, silicon, and sulphur being rather more fully noticed