

At the end of the book there is a wealth of coloured and half-tone plates, which are reproduced in all cases from the author's personal drawings. In these plates the entire nymph, or naiad, is accurately figured, together with the mentum and palpi. In the suborder Zygoptera one of the caudal lamellæ is usually also represented. A monograph so complete as the present one is obviously the result of many years' patient search and observation. In some cases the living stages have been procured and the descriptions and illustrations made from these; in others, spirit material has been utilised; while for a considerable number, recourse had to be made to the exuviae out of which the imagines had emerged. The author has appended to his descriptions notes relative to the habits, etc., of the different species. Although all the species are carnivorous, little seems to be known relative to their actual prey and whether they exercise much discrimination in this respect.

The present volume is well up to the standard of other volumes issued by the Ray Society, and both that body and the author are to be congratulated upon its production. A. D. I.

*The Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology. Transactions, Vol. 8, 1927-1928. Pp. xi + 196 + 23 plates. (London: The Newcomen Society, 1929.) 20s.*

VOL. 8 of the *Transactions* of the Newcomen Society contains ten papers read during the winter 1927-28 and during the summer meeting of the latter year at Stourbridge; two notes and communications; a subject list of books and pamphlets relating to the history of technology, 1926-30; a list of members; the annual report, and 23 finely produced plates. As usual, the range of subjects is a wide one, the papers including those of Mr. E. W. Anderson on the development of the organ; of Mr. T. Rowatt on railway brakes; of Mr. J. E. Hodgson on James Sadler of Oxford, and of Mr. J. W. Hall on the making and rolling of iron.

Two papers respectively by Engr.-Capt. E. C. Smith and Mr. L. F. Loree deal with the early history of steam navigation in England and America. In that by the former is an account of the machinery of the s.s. *Victory* in which Capt. John Ross set out in 1829 to discover the Northwest Passage. From Ross's account of his long sojourn in the north, it was known that the machinery proved a failure, but hitherto nothing was known of its construction. Particulars and sketches of it were found a year or two ago in the note-books of Simon Goodrich which were preserved in the Science Museum, and some of his sketches have been reproduced in the *Transactions*.

The summer meeting gave an opportunity for several interesting communications on the early industries of the Stourbridge district. One of the 'notes' included in the volume is a long and valuable paper by Col. N. T. Belaiew on the Sumerian mina, its origin and probable value;

while another by Dr. Carl Sahlin recalls the work of Thomas Lewis and Samuel Owen, two British pioneers of mechanical engineering in Sweden.

*Myths and Legends of the Australian Aborigines.* By Dr. W. Ramsay Smith. Pp. 356 + 38 plates. (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 21s. net.

DR. RAMSAY SMITH classifies the myths and legends of the Australian aborigines which he has collected in this volume into 'origins', that is, stories of the creation and beginnings of things; animal myths; religious, social, and personal myths; and has strung them together in the form of a connected narrative by notes on customs and beliefs cognate to each class. These notes give the un-instructed reader a general view of aboriginal culture as a background for the stories. Dr. Ramsay Smith is fully alive to the importance of aboriginal legendary lore in its bearing upon their institutions, and it is therefore surprising to find that, even though he disclaims any intention of giving a scientific exposition of Australian mythology, there is no indication of where and when the material was collected. Except in one or two cases, the name of the tribe in which the myth occurred is not mentioned. All that we are told is that the myths refer to "only a few localities in Australia and only a few tribes in them". As the stories, which are very much 'written up', bear very directly upon problems of aboriginal belief, this is a grave defect—all the more, perhaps, because the book is intended to be popular.

*La Lorraine métallurgique.* Par Axel Sömme. Pp. viii + 250 + 7 planches + 12 cartes. (Paris: Éditions Berger-Levrault, 1930.) 30 francs.

IN spite of their low iron content, the minette deposits of Lorraine are of great importance. Before the European War they were partly in Germany; now they lie in France except for a small area in Luxemburg, which will probably be exhausted in half a century. Prof. Sömme has made a close study of the geographical and economic conditions in these relatively new iron-ore districts with their rapidly growing towns. He has produced a monograph of considerable value, tracing the growth of the industry, its lessening dependence on Ruhr coke, its markets and lines of export, and the main labour problems which are entailed. He discusses even the effect of the industry on agriculture in Lorraine and Luxemburg. The book is well documented and has a number of sketch maps and illustrations.

*Philosophy of a Biologist.* By Sir Leonard Hill. Pp. viii + 88. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1930.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS little book is a review of our present knowledge and views by a distinguished physiologist. It will be read with pleasure and interest by all scientific men, whether or not they agree with the author's endeavour to suggest that "modern science has brought us to the conception of a power eternal, infinite, unknowable . . . energizing all in the universe, the dead no less than the quick".