

"Huxley is more of a literary than a scientific man", but while in one sense as a scientific man Huxley is now a mere historical figure, in another sense his influence as a man of science is still profoundly felt. The impetus he gave to scientific ways of thinking, not merely in some specialised field such as biology but also in the everyday affairs of life, has not yet died out. The battle he joined on the place of scientific method in education is still unfinished but his teachings and example are as inspiring as ever. The publication of these lectures in more permanent form should make known to a wider circle of scientific workers something of the sincerity and the humility which characterised Thomas Huxley, and should encourage them to take part in the yet unfinished warfare which he waged for scientific leadership and to emulate his own felicity of exposition of the aims and results of scientific studies. R.B.

*Botany for Schools: a Textbook suitable for School Certificate and similar Examinations.* By Dr. E. R. Spratt and A. V. Spratt. Pp. viii + 363. (London: University Tutorial Press, Ltd., 1932.) 4s. 6d.

THE course of botany contained in these pages is claimed to cover completely the syllabus of the various School Certificate examinations. The authors also claim that the book is "suitable for the general reader who is interested in studying and experimenting with plants". Few textbooks are of interest or use to the 'general' reader; and this definitely is a textbook. A two years' botanical course is developed along orthodox lines. The photographs are good and are genuinely illustrative of certain botanical facts. The line diagrams, however, leave much to be desired, and in a number of cases they are misleading. The subject matter is presented in an appropriate form, but in places, especially the experimental physiology, it tends to be rather out of date.

As an examination textbook this work can be recommended, though it can scarcely be considered ideal or novel enough to be substituted for some of the better-known textbooks on the subject.

*Bees, Wasps, Ants and Allied Insects of the British Isles.* By Edward Step. (The Wayside and Woodland Series.) Pp. xxv + 238 + 111 plates. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1932.) 10s. 6d. net.

No one who has read with interest the author's former well-known contributions to the "Wayside and Woodland" series could fail to welcome this, his last addition. The book is not claimed to be a rigid textbook on the Hymenoptera but sets out to give a general idea of these insects to field-naturalists. Therefore the treatment has necessitated the consideration of insects with no special regard to the natural sequence of groups, and only the more noticeable or important insects are fully described. A classified index of families and genera of the Hymenoptera is, however, appended. There are, also, a glossary of technical terms and a good

general index. Step's books always have made good, interesting reading, but this, especially from the point of view of the profuse illustrations, can be looked upon as his *magnum opus*.

*The Imperial Gazetteer of India.* Vol. 26: *Atlas.* New (revised) edition. Published under the Authority of the Government of India. Pp. vii + 66 maps + 41. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1931.) 17s. 6d. net.

THE last edition of this atlas was published in 1909 and is now out of date in many respects. The present edition has two more plates than the old, the additions being an extra map of the distribution of crops, thus allowing twelve crops instead of eight to be shown, and one of Bihar and Orissa. Considerable changes have been made in the archæological sketch map, in the plate showing economic minerals and in the numerous town plans, and all the maps have been revised. In addition to the twenty-nine plates of general distributional maps, there are nineteen plates showing the whole of British India, the native States and Burma on a scale of 1 to 4,000,000. Afghanistan is shown on a small scale. There is a lengthy index.

*How I was Born: the Plain Story of Birth and Sex.* By Cyril Phillips Bryan. Pp. vii + 105. (London: John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 1932.) 5s. net.

IN this book, Mr. Bryan makes a sensible and interesting contribution to the literature of sex and its human significance. He gives a plain and straightforward statement which could be read with advantage by both adolescents and adults. There is nothing of a pornographic or even emotional character in the book, but much information which should afford wise guidance to healthy life and parentage. Among the many subjects clearly discussed are birth-control, sex determination, maternal impressions, inbreeding and heredity, hybrids and venereal disease. Many common fallacies are unveiled and curious cases described. In every respect the author has been successful in his endeavour to place before general readers the main facts relating to the whole range of sex.

*Detachment of the Retina: a Contribution to the Study of its Causation and Treatment.* By J. Ringland Anderson. Published for *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*. Pp. xiv + 207 + 7 plates. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1931.) 20s. net.

IN his foreword, Sir John Parsons truly describes this monograph as being exhaustive and reliable and likely long to remain the chief source of information on detachment of the retina. Dr. Anderson gives a clear account, with full bibliographical references, of the present state of our knowledge of the causation and of the empirical mode of treatment which in certain cases affords some measure of success.