

school of Higher Criticism, at least in so far as their contributions to this volume are concerned.

A semi-popular, but thoroughly scholarly account is given of myth and ritual, or rather of that part of it of which the Isis-Osiris-Horus myth may be taken as the type, in the ancient East—Egypt, Babylonia, Canaan—and the Hebrew evidence, archaeological as well as Biblical, is examined to show how far the traces therein of ancient myth and ritual conform to the pattern. The Biblical texts were so thoroughly worked over by later generations for the purpose of eliminating traces of earlier beliefs, that it is surprising to find that there is so much, rather than so little, that lends itself to reconstruction. Reference in this connexion may be made to the chapter on “The Sun-Cult and the Temple at Jerusalem” by Dr. F. J. Hollis.

This little book will serve an admirable purpose if it stimulates interest in Biblical studies from what, to most readers, will be a new point of view; while the anthropologist who is not a specialist in the fields here surveyed will find in the various chapters good summaries of current knowledge and theory.

*The Underworld of India.* By Lieut.-General Sir George MacMunn. Pp. 284+16 plates. (London: Jarrolds (Publishers) London, Ltd., 1933.) 12s. 6d. net.

SIR GEORGE MACMUNN knows his India from end to end in an intimate work-a-day fashion that has provided material for a life-like picture of the depressed classes, and will probably give the general reader a clearer idea of the real India than would have been gathered from a more formal treatise. The ‘underworld’, of which he writes, includes all untouchables and outcasts—the castes of menial occupation, the mendicants, dancing girls, temple and other courtesans, and jungle tribes, as well as the classes whose normal occupations are criminal. Apart from the interest of this description of these characteristically eastern social groups, Sir George’s book has the merit of bringing out clearly the place of caste in social relations—a very real foundation of opposition to the political claims of Hinduism—and the place of sex in Hindu religious thought and social life—a constant and deep-rooted pre-occupation, which gives them an orientation fundamentally divergent from that in a European society.

It is unfortunate that in a book, in which so much is excellent, a little care was not given to the revision of the text. Some of the author’s remarks on ethnological points require more precise statement or some qualification, misprints are frequent—“polygynny” in its context is almost humorous—the punctuation is erratic and the meaning often obscured by the omission of a word or words not always easy to supply.

*Plant and Animal Ecology.* By J. W. Stork and Prof. L. P. W. Renouf. Pp. ix+197. (London: John Murray, 1933.) 5s.

THIS is the first attempt we have seen at combining plant and animal ecology. It is clear that a work of this sort is required now that we are sensibly tending away from the old-fashioned natural history and the too well-established separate botany and zoology courses towards a broader study of biology—the only truly scientific examination and appreciation of the fundamentals of life.

The material is conveniently classified (plant and animal together) into the various familiar ‘associations’. Though the authors disclaim any attempt at completeness, much useful information is packed into a small volume; and the material is well chosen, clearly described and well illustrated by some diagrams and many more photographs. A brief survey of plant and animal classification is appended, as also are useful hints on collecting and, even more important, a bibliography.

The book may be recommended to students of elementary biology and to all field naturalists. Both authors are well-known biologists and teachers with plenty of practical experience to their credit, which makes one all the more sure of a useful addition to elementary biological literature.

*Le Leggi di Mendel e i cromosomi. Opera premiata dalla Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze i Nuovi Lincei.* Per Paolo Enriques. Pp. ii+225. (Bologna: Nicola Zanichelli, 1932.) 25 lire.

THIS volume by the late Prof. Enriques is a text covering the field of Mendelism from the cytological point of view. Although dealing mainly with zoological material, there are numerous references to plants as well. The book contains eleven chapters and a bibliography. The results of modern genetic cytology are clearly set forth in the form of nine ‘laws’, a separate chapter being devoted to each. These include, for example, the laws of heterozygosis, segregation, independence in variability, sex determination, synapsis and interference of the genes. The work will no doubt be useful in spreading a knowledge of the cytological bases of Mendelian heredity among Italian biologists.

*Elementary Chemical Arithmetic.* By R. H. Gibbs. Pp. 96. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1932.) 2s.

THIS small manual is characterised by the care which the author has taken to make clear all matters which give difficulty to beginners. The descriptive text and definitions are very concise and accurate, and the worked examples are set out in a very satisfactory fashion. The examples for exercise are both numerous and well chosen, and the book can be recommended strongly to School Certificate and Matriculation candidates as well as to junior students in the universities.