

Where is the — Collection?

An Account of the various Natural History Collections which have come under the notice of the Compiler, Dr. Charles Davies Sherborn, between 1880 and 1939. Pp. 150. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1940.) 3s. 6d. net.

THE difficulty of discovering the resting place of some important specimen has been encountered by most systematists, and doubtless justifies the "blue-pencilled" word which the author may or may not have hinted at in the title of this little book. Here about 1,700 entries give names of persons the fate of whose collections is briefly indicated.

Clearly it is impossible in the first instance to make such a catalogue complete; even important collections like the "Discovery" collections in the British Museum or the "Scotia" collections in the Royal Scottish Museum or any of the great Antarctic collections, and many others, are not mentioned. But it is misleading when entries are incomplete or inaccurate: "Edinburgh", "Edinburgh Mus.", "Edin. Mus. Sci. and Art", all inadequately indicate the Royal Scottish Museum, and in it are preserved Hugh Miller's collections and not "in his home at Cromarty"; the famous Dufrésne collection was bought in Paris by the University of Edinburgh in 1819 for £3,000 and such of it as remains, including some type specimens (not "shells" only), is also in the Royal Scottish Museum; the collections of Sir Charles Lyell, rocks, minerals and fossils, are not "at Kinnordy", but in the Department of Geology of the University of Edinburgh. These and similar deficiencies can be put right in time; the chief concern is that Dr. Sherborn's vast knowledge and painstaking labour have created a foundation upon which a complete *Catalogus Thesaurorum* may be erected, and which in the meantime will be invaluable for reference.

JAMES RITCHIE.

Physiology in Health and Disease

By Prof. Carl J. Wiggers. Third edition, thoroughly revised. Pp. 1144. (London: Henry Kimpton, 1939.) 42s. net.

THE appearance of a third edition of one of the major American text-books of physiology will be welcomed by teachers of physiology. Extensive revision includes the addition of 1,400 new references, and it is as a guide to the recent literature that the book is likely to make its strongest appeal. In sections in which the emphasis on recent developments is most marked, the impression of a collection of stop-press news sometimes disturbs that of a well-digested presentation. In the course of the transfer from the summaries of original papers to the text, condensation has in some instances played havoc with the sense of the matter described, and a rather high measure of verbal carelessness enhances the feeling that the book does not represent quite the unhurried and matured conception of physiology for which we would have hoped from so distinguished an authority.

The illustrations are not very plentiful and many of them are not very telling. Ingenious and elaborate

schematic diagrams of physiological processes and their relations abound, and will satisfy the craving for such things of the most enthusiastic examinee. Nevertheless, the book is alive and has quality, and will continue to be valued as one of the larger standard text-books by lecturers and advanced students of physiology who are concerned with those parts of the subject required for an understanding of human disease.

Earth Science

A Physiography. By Gustav L. Fletcher. Based on "New Physiography", by Albert L. Arey, Frank L. Bryant, William W. Clendenin, William T. Morrey. Pp. v+568. (Boston, New York and Chicago: D. C. Heath and Co.; London: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1938.) 7s. 6d.

THE text of this book is based upon Arey, Bryant, Clendenin and Morrey's "New Physiography"; but the order of topics has been entirely rearranged and the subject-matter completely rewritten. As an introduction a general account of the past history of the earth is given, followed by a description of the dynamic forces that are changing the face of the earth to-day, and a study of the material composition of the earth. For the sake of familiarity the land is first surveyed, the author then proceeding to describe the earth's relations in space, the seasons, latitude, longitude, the atmosphere and associated phenomena like weather and climate. The book is rounded off with a study of the sea, special emphasis being placed on harbours. An interesting feature is the inclusion of a completion summary at the end of each chapter. This the reader is required to copy and complete; it is intended to counteract the bad practice of reading only the summaries of chapters. Each section is provided with a range of questions involving every important point raised in the text. The diagrams are clear and liberally distributed, the majority of them being illustrative of North American earth formations.

Protozoology

By Prof. Richard Roksbro Kudo. Enlarged and completely rewritten edition of a "Handbook of Protozoology". Pp. xi+689. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1939.) 36s.

IN this edition the author has largely rewritten his text, and has also expanded the book to include certain subjects which were not touched upon in the earlier edition. The sections on morphology and physiology have been extended, though the latter appears to deal largely with work published before the first edition of this book was issued. Two entirely new chapters are devoted to ecology, and to variation and heredity. Although the soil is mentioned as an environment, no suggestion is given of the richness of its fauna, nor are some of the common soil species attributed to this habitat. In the taxonomic section a large number of species has been added, though it is still possible to find omissions; but perhaps this is to be expected in a work of this size. More than one hundred new illustrations have been included, and an adequate bibliography is supplied to each chapter.