

The Boys' Country Book

Edited by John Moore. Pp. 352. (London: William Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1955.) 15s. net.

Letters to a Young Naturalist

By Maxwell Knight. Pp. 192. (London: William Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1955.) 10s. 6d. net.

THOSE who publish books for young people must find the task more difficult every day. First, because more books are being published than the reading public can buy. Secondly, because the books that are published are, on the whole, of good quality both in format and in content. It is not surprising, therefore, to find a well-known publishing company of children's books dipping into the past for ideas for new books which it hopes will be successful. The editor of the "Boys' Country Book" has turned to the "Boys' Own Book", published about 1860, and which contained much good advice about how to get the best out of riding, sailing, swimming, fishing, shooting and other activities beloved by boys; much country lore was intermingled with the advice. In his book John Moore has sought help from well-known writers like Spencer, Chapman, Jack Longland, Jacquetta Hawkes, Geoffrey Grigson, James Fisher, Eric Hosking and a score of others who write about country pursuits of diverse kinds. The majority have done their task well; a few have padded to fill out the pages and fortunately will be read and quickly forgotten by boys of good sense. Most of the book should arouse spontaneous interest with the majority of early teen-agers.

"Letters to a Young Naturalist" has been developed along the same lines as Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne". It may appeal more to young people than adults who, while recognizing the value of the natural lore it contains, would have preferred to have been spared some of the conversational exchanges between uncle, nephew and niece. Some children, too, might have preferred straightforward descriptions.

Careers for Graduates

A Handbook of Information. Edited for the University of London Appointments Board. Pp. vii+196. (London: The Athlone Press (University of London), 1955. Distributed by Constable and Co., Ltd.) 5s. net.

A VALUABLE service to graduates, headmasters and headmistresses, parents and scholars who hope to go to a university has been made available by the Appointments Board of the University of London. In 1924 the Board issued a handbook giving information about the avenues of employment open to graduates. This ran to three editions, the last being published so long ago as 1934. A fourth edition has now been prepared and is virtually a new book. So far as possible the employment of graduates and students in all faculties except theology has been considered, and the needs of both men and women have been taken into account.

The Handbook includes a select bibliography of current careers pamphlets, memoranda and books likely to be of interest to graduates, students and others; addresses likely to be required by those making inquiries and an index for convenience of reference. It is a model of succinct and lucid presentation, and should be a boon to many who have to choose careers for themselves; it will be even more useful to those who have to advise others about suitable means of training for careers. The weakness

of the book is in its unconscious emphasis on 'professionalism'. It has long been known that Britain has not found enough enterprising young men to take the findings of scientific research and apply and develop them in industry. It is not enough to encourage graduates to seek careers in industry. They are most needed in production departments where qualities other than professional qualifications will be needed if they are to establish themselves and progress. It is difficult to see how, in a Handbook of this kind, the real challenge and opportunity which shop-floor industry presents could be presented. Perhaps that is a problem to which industry alone can find the answer.

T. H. HAWKINS

The Numbers of Man and Animals

Edited by J. B. Cragg and N. W. Pirie. Pp. viii+152. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., 1955. Published for The Institute of Biology.) 15s. net.

IN September 1954 the Institute of Biology arranged a symposium in order to bring together specialists in many different subjects connected with the numbers of men and animals. Their deliberations were recorded and have now been put together in book form. The central theme of the conference was that, while the growth of human populations is strongly influenced by social and cultural factors which are much less important in other species, *Homo sapiens* is still an animal and many aspects of his relationship with his environment, with other species, and with other members of his own species, are open to biological analysis. The analysis extends into most aspects of biology and sheds light not only on the reproductive habits of man but also on those of his domestic animals, parasites and pests. It became clear from the symposium that a great deal of money will have to be spent, and the number of people engaged on biological investigations increased, if essential information on population control or stabilization is to be obtained.

The book contains a record of all the papers presented by speakers as well as an idealized version of the discussion. It has been ably edited on behalf of the Institute of Biology, and the Institute has increased its prestige by arranging such a desirable and useful symposium.

A Manual of Paper Chromatography and Paper Electrophoresis

By Richard J. Block, Emmett L. Durrum and Gunter Zweig, with the co-operation of Raymond LeStrange, Winston H. Wingerd and Kathryn W. Weiss. Pp. viii+484. (New York: Academic Press, Inc.; London: Academic Books, Ltd., 1955.) 8 dollars.

THIS book is written in two sections: the first, by R. J. Block and G. Zweig, is on paper chromatography; and the second, by E. L. Durrum, is on paper electrophoresis. The first section is a revised version of the well-known monograph, by Block, LeStrange and Zweig, published in 1952, and maintains the high standard of that work. All practical aspects of paper chromatography are treated with remarkable thoroughness and presented clearly with many helpful recommendations. This section is a complete practical guide for all who employ paper chromatography.

There is ample justification for a monograph on paper electrophoresis, since it is now well established, but it is questionable whether the best course was to