

Veterinary Protozoology

By U. F. Richardson and Dr. S. B. Kendall. Second edition, revised. Pp. xii+260. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., 1957.) 22s. 6d.

ALTHOUGH protozoal infections of domestic animals are of the greatest economic importance, especially in tropical and warm countries, there are scarcely any reliable English text-books of protozoology covering this field to which students and practitioners of veterinary medicine can turn for information. As the first edition of the book under review, written by the senior author some ten years ago, suffered from a number of defects, it was hoped that the second edition, now produced by the joint efforts of two authors, would be considerably improved. The results are, however, somewhat disappointing, and the presentation of the subject-matter is uneven.

The general morphology and cytology of the protozoa, as well as their physiology, host-parasite relations and classification, are dealt with rather briefly in an introductory chapter, which is followed by six chapters on the flagellates, among which the trypanosomes rightly occupy a prominent place. Here it may be noted that the definition of certain inner structures (blepharoplast, basal granule, parabasal body and kinetoplast)—here, and in the introduction—are contradictory and confusing. A short chapter on *Histomonas* and entamoebae is followed by four chapters on the Sporozoa (especially coccidia and piroplasms). These are adequately dealt with, but more space could have been given to toxoplasmosis. A special chapter is allocated to ciliates (*Balanitidium*) and an assembly of protists of uncertain systematic status, followed by chapters on chemotherapy and techniques.

In all sections, the description of the pathogenic parasites and their life-history is accompanied by an account of the diseases caused by them, and their treatment. These form the most valuable part of the book, whereas the description of some of the species of protozoa is not sufficiently accurate or clear for their differentiation. Furthermore, the parasitological diagnosis of some infections would have been facilitated by the provision of more and better figures, and by reference to the existing ones in the text.

C. A. HOARE

Nuclear Radiation in Food and Agriculture

Edited by Prof. W. Ralph Singleton. (The Geneva Series on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.) Pp. xii+379. (Princeton, N.J.: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc.; London: D. Van Nostrand Company, Ltd., 1958.) 64s.

THIS book is one volume of a series being published to cover various parts of the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. The volume under review is devoted mainly to those portions of the Conference which are concerned with food and agriculture. Each chapter of the book is a paper from the Conference and has therefore already been published by Columbia Press in the Proceedings of the Conference.

The editor—Prof. Singleton—has selected 28 papers for this book, from nearly 100 which were on appropriate subjects. The ones he has chosen are either reviews, such as "Use of radioisotopes in soil and fertiliser studies" by A. L. Dean, or specialist papers on important topics such as "Genetic eradication of the Screw-worm fly" by Bushland *et al.*

In this way the editor has produced a book which should appeal to a wide range of readers.

The majority of the papers in the book refer to work with plants rather than animals. This editorial choice was made because the papers involving animals were mainly physiological in nature, rather than of general agricultural interest. There is, however, a section of six chapters on genetical and biological hazards of radiation, some of which are mainly relevant to humans. These latter papers could have been omitted since they are not primarily of agricultural interest and can be found elsewhere. It might then have been possible to have included other more relevant papers. Nevertheless, the book covers much important work. There are eight main sections dealing with nuclear radiation in fields as diverse as the use of radioisotopes; photosynthesis; plant physiology, pathology and cytology; soils and fertilizers; crop improvement; food sterilization; in addition to the subjects already mentioned.

A further feature is a list of relevant papers including those which were not selected for publication in the book. This adds greatly to its value.

LORNA J. LILLY

National Libraries of the World

Their History, Administration and Public Services. By Dr. Arundell Esdaile. Second edition, completely revised by F. J. Hill. Pp. xv+413+12 plates. (London: Library Association, 1957.) 44s.

THE second edition of Dr. Esdaile's book describes some thirty-two of the national libraries of the world, the growth of their stocks and the development of their services and the effect of the Second World War. Admirably presented and produced, it is representative rather than comprehensive, and the selection has been determined by such considerations as fame, historical interest or administrative significance, and also with a view to geographical distribution. The British Commonwealth is represented by the British Museum and the National Library of Canada, with short notes on the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales, the National Library of the Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, the South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, and the United States of America by the library of Congress. That list also indicates the key importance of the notes on the place of each library in its national system, though even here a note on the British Museum which does no more than refer to the National Central Library can scarcely be regarded as adequate. The value of the book to a general reader and to many librarians would be enormously enhanced if these notes could be expanded to include a brief account of the several national systems and the way in which needs of those concerned with the varied fields of science and technology as well as of the arts and humanities are served.

R. BRIGHTMAN

Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World

By James C. Greenway, Jr. (Special Publication No. 13.) Pp. x+518. (New York: American Committee for International Wild Life Protection, 1958.) 5 dollars.

DR. GREENWAY has performed a most estimable service in completing this scholarly and painstaking analysis.

The large-scale exploitation of the landscape of countries colonized by the modern European has