

RECENT LITERATURE.

The Allen Bibliography.¹—A most welcome addition to bibliographic literature is the catalogue of the published scientific writings of Dr. J. A. Allen. We feel sure that all readers of 'The Auk' will heartily endorse the foreword by Prof. Henry Fairfield Osborn in which he states that the life and writings of Dr. Allen "have exerted so great an influence on the progress of ornithology and mammalogy in America that all who have the interest of these branches of science at heart, both in this country and abroad, will welcome this biographical and bibliographical volume." "It is issued" he adds "as an expression of the appreciation of Doctor Allen's life work by the Trustees of The American Museum of Natural History and his devoted colleagues on its Scientific Staff".

The total number of titles amounts to 1453, of which 966 relate to birds, the other topics covered being mammals, reptiles, zoögeography, nomenclature, and biography. Of mammals he has described no less than 573 new forms and 21 new genera and subgenera, while of birds he has named 49 new forms and 4 new genera. These figures alone will give some idea of the tremendous amount of work that Dr. Allen has accomplished and a perusal of the titles themselves will further emphasize the breadth of his knowledge and the part that he has played in developing his favorite branches of science.

By far the most interesting portion of the volume, however, is the delightful autobiographical sketch which precedes the bibliography. Others can express their appreciation of a man's life work and set forth its value to the world, but no one can describe the conditions under which it developed or the factors that contributed to its growth, so well as the man himself. We are therefore, under obligations to Dr. Allen for this sketch which is most interesting reading and rich in historical detail, much of which probably no one but Dr. Allen could furnish at this late day.

To quote again from Prof. Osborn's foreword: "we are sure that naturalists in all parts of the world will unite in felicitating Dr. Allen on the great work which he has accomplished and in wishing him many more years of strength and activity".—W. S.

Thorburn's 'British Birds'.²—With the third and fourth volumes of Mr. Thorburn's splendid work before us, another of the many books

¹ Autobiographical Notes and a Bibliography of the Scientific Publications of Joel Asaph Allen. Published by the American Museum of Natural History, New York. 1916. Svo. pp. 1-215, frontispiece portrait.

² British Birds | written and illustrated by | A. Thorburn, F. Z. S. | With eighty plates in colour, showing over four hundred species. | In four volumes | Vol. III | Longmans, Green and Co. | 39 Paternoster Row, London | Fourth Avenue & 30th Street, New York | Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras | 1916. | All rights reserved. | Large 4to. pp. 1-87, pll. 41-60. Vol. IV. 1916. pp. 1-107, pll. 61-80. [Price \$10. per volume, net.]