

Scoville's 'Everyday Adventures.'—Under this title Mr. Scoville has published another collection of out-door sketches<sup>1</sup> which appeared originally in various magazines. Some like those of his earlier volume—'The Out-of-Doors Club'—describe trips afield with his children, while others, notably those from the 'Atlantic Monthly,' are more serious contributions both to literature and natural history.

Mr. Scoville has an attractive style and places his "adventures" before us in a realistic manner, while a vein of humor crops out at frequent intervals. The volume is readable and instructive and he who opens it will be likely to read it through. A notable point about our author's writings is that they chronicle the doings of birds and mammals in parts of the country which have not often been treated of by popular nature writers—the Pennsylvania mountains, both the Alleghanies and the Pocono; the New Jersey Pine Barrens and the river swamps of Delaware and Maryland. And as a result the Cardinal, the Carolina Wren and the Tufted Tit come in for the same sort of familiar treatment that the more northern New England birds have long enjoyed. It is, however, a distinctly New England bird, the Hermit Thrush, that has aroused his greatest enthusiasm, even though he has studied it in the mountains of Pennsylvania and shows that other states also have a claim to it: "In the world where that singer dwells," he writes, "there is no fret and fever of life and strife of tongues. On and on the song flowed, cool and clear. \* \* \* It was as if the wood itself were speaking. There was in it youth and hope and spring and glories of dawns and sunsets and moonlight and the sound of the wind from far away. Again the world was young and unfallen, nor had the gates of Heaven closed. All the long-lost dreams of youth came true—while the hermit thrush sang."

Certain chapters are contributions to ornithology of no little importance, as for instance the account of the Raven's nesting in the Pennsylvania mountains. As Mr. Scoville truly says, the ornithologists who have had the privilege of looking into a Pennsylvania Raven's nest may be counted on the fingers of one hand, so that his account forms an almost unique contribution to the history of this notable bird. One who has not the key to the situation may marvel at the number of really rare birds whose nests the author has studied, but to those who recognize in "the botanist," "the banker," "the artist," etc., fellow members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and the American Ornithologists' Union, upon whose trips afield Mr. Scoville has been a welcome companion, the opportunities that he has enjoyed are at once apparent.

There are a few lapses, as: the reference to Fox grapes when Chicken grapes are obviously intended (p. 33); and the statement, doubtless intended sarcastically but likely to be taken seriously, that the Philadelphia Vireo is "so named because it is never by any chance found in Philadel-

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<sup>1</sup> Everyday Adventures. By Samuel Scoville, Jr. The Atlantic Monthly Press, Boston [1920]. 8vo., pp. 1-241, 24 plates. Price \$3.00.

phia." The original specimen was as a matter of fact taken in the city and a number of others have been seen or taken in subsequent years. Mr. Scoville's book is by no means limited to accounts of bird-life—the four-footed beasts, the snakes, the wild flowers, trees and stars all come in for consideration—nor is literature forgotten, and in speaking of his cabin in the Jersey pines he refers to the book shelf that is maintained there, for, says he, "no book ever tastes so well as before a great fire in the heart of the wilderness, even if the wilderness be only a few miles away." And those who love the wilderness, we might add, will have no trouble in tasting it as they peruse the pages of Mr. Scoville's little volume.—W. S.

**Hudson's 'Birds of La Plata.'**—The first ornithological work of W. H. Hudson was the 'Argentine Ornithology' prepared in collaboration with the late Philip Lutley Sclater, the biographies of the species with which he became acquainted during his life in La Plata being prepared by Hudson and the technical portion—synonymy etc., with brief notice of such species as had been found in the more northern provinces of Argentina, being supplied by Sclater. Owing to the very limited edition the work is usually to be found only in scientific libraries and but few of Hudson's later admirers have had an opportunity of reading these biographies. This fact alone would have warranted a new edition of the work but surprising as it may seem, in the thirty years that have intervened since the appearance of the 'Argentine Ornithology' practically nothing additional to it has appeared, so far as the life histories of the birds are concerned, and Mr. Hudson's biographies are still the best accounts of the La Plata birds that we have. This double need of a new edition has just been met by the publication of Mr. Hudson's portion of the original work with the synonyms and references to the birds of northern Argentina omitted. As the author says in the preface, the character of the work is thereby altered and a new title had to be provided and in as much as the biographies all relate to the birds of the province of La Plata it was thought proper to call it 'Birds of La Plata.'

The accounts of the various species are almost identical with those of the earlier work, most of them being reprinted verbatim, but a number of the more inconspicuous species which were not treated at length are briefly mentioned in the closing paragraph of the sketch of an allied form which demanded more detailed consideration. This together with the elimination of the species of northern Argentina has reduced the number of specific headings from 434 to 190, although the extent of the biographical portion is the same in each work. The earlier book contained twenty hand colored lithographic plates, while the present work is illustrated by twenty-two beautifully printed three-color process plates, from paintings by H. Gronvold. Only two of these latter plates, however, illustrate the same species as those of the earlier series. Of the present pictures those of the Military Starling, the Many-colored Tyrant—that little Kinglet-like Flycatcher, and the Pampas Woodpecker are perhaps the most pleasing.