

Holmer's 'Indian Bird-Life.'—The little book¹ before us is another evidence of the spread of popular interest in birds—a brief treatise on the common birds of India, which the author tells us aims “to link the popular knowledge of a few birds . . . with the scientific knowledge which can cheerfully attack large classical volumes on ornithology.” “It is a book” he adds “to work with, a laboratory book where the laboratory is the open air.”

There are two parts treating respectively of the birds of the Plains and the birds of the Hills, the several chapters dealing with special groups or birds of special regions; while one explains the principles of classification. Appendices give a list of the commoner species of Indian passerine birds with page references to the ‘Birds of India’ by Oates and Blanford and tables of the characters of the families and orders.

To those who associate popular ornithology with America and England it seems strange to see a colored plate of a house and grounds with “Blue Jays” (= Rollers), Mynahs, Jungle Babblers, etc., as the common lawn birds, while in the trees rest Honey-suckers and Green Bee-Eaters.

This little book with its popular accounts of the birds will prove of much value in interesting English residents of India, and English speaking visitors, in the avifauna, and in giving the beginner what he desires by leading him to the more serious study of ornithology.—W. S.

Dr. Fox's 'Disease in Captive Wild Mammals and Birds.'—The work² of the pathological laboratory of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia for the past twenty years is well known. During this period no less than 1860 mammals and 3505 birds which died in the garden have had autopsies performed upon them and the results recorded while many pathological specimens have been prepared and preserved in the museum.

This work has been carried on by Dr. Herbert Fox, pathologist of the Society and his assistants, Drs. F. D. Weidmann and E. P. Corson-White. The portly volume which is now before us presents the materials thus obtained, systematically arranged and ably discussed by Dr. Fox, together with extracts from similar work by others and other matter calculated to make the volume more complete.

This important contribution to medical and zoological science not only shows just what diseases occur in captive animals but presents data, the application of which will undoubtedly help to explain some of the patho-

¹ Indian Bird-Life. By M. R. N. Holmer. Humphrey Milford. Oxford University Press, London, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras. 1923. Pp. 1-ix + 1-100. Price, \$1.20. Oxford University Press, America Branch, New York.

² Disease in Captive Wild Mammals and Birds. By Herbert Fox, M. D., Pathologist to the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Director of the William Pepper Laboratory Clinical University of Pennsylvania. With a foreword by Charles B. Penrose, President of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, London and Chicago. J. B. Lippincott Company. Pp. i-vii, 1-665 (3). 1923. Price \$12.00.

logical states in domestic animals and in man. With the knowledge which it presents, moreover, intelligent experiments may be made to counteract the effects of diseases in zoological gardens and eliminate them as far as possible. To quote Dr. Penrose's "foreword" "Though the object of the work was the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, yet results of practical value have followed: hygiene has been improved; disinfection has been made scientific; epidemics have been arrested; some diseases, notably tuberculosis in monkeys, and spiropteriasis in parrots, have been practically eliminated." Moreover, the keepers of the Philadelphia Zoo have taken renewed interest in the care of the animals with the knowledge that this constant effort to determine the cause of death, and to prevent its recurrence, is being carried on.

The major part of Dr. Fox's volume discusses the diseases of the various organs from the standpoint of the pathologist and is necessarily largely technical. Besides describing the conditions of a disease he points out which groups of animals are especially susceptible to it and which are apparently immune. There are successively considered diseases of the heart, blood vessels, bone and marrow, lymphatic tissues, respiratory, alimentary and urinary tracts, male and female reproductive organs, ductless glands, skeleton and central nervous system, constitutional diseases, relation of diet to disease (by Dr. Corson-White), neoplasms, infectious diseases and animal parasites (by Dr. Weidman).

This portion of the work will form a most valuable source of reference for the members of the medical profession interested in tracing the history of a disease through the vertebrates lower than man, as well as to the keepers of zoological gardens and the breeders of wild or domestic animals. Of more interest to the general reader, however, are the "foreword" by Dr. Penrose and Dr. Fox's introduction. There is here presented a summary of the general effects of captivity on wild animals and the physical and mental disarrangements which they undergo:—the sometimes fatal results of nostalgia which is common to many animals; the unnatural habit of killing young or mates; the killing of diseased animals by their healthy companions; self mutilation, etc. Birds are said to suffer less than mammals from the psychological effect of captivity, their mental development being much lower. With few exceptions (as the Ruffed Grouse) they accept captivity easily and become tame, and if the aviaries be bright and cheerful with plenty of sun all of the inmates seem to thrive and are happy, which is quite the reverse in dark, dull houses.

Dr. Fox points out that among birds quite distinct differences in some pathological processes occur, not only from the mammals but also within the class, while their response to infection he thinks may to some extent depend upon differences in anatomy. In regard to the high death rate in zoological gardens among recently received animals, which reaches 33% to 50% in the first six months in the London Zoo, Dr. Fox says that while failure to become acclimatized undoubtedly accounts for some cases of death, there are other factors to consider—infection in the wild, or in

transit, in the hold of a vessel or in a railway car, or in quarantine or in dealers' establishments. It is also pointed out that the seemingly high death rate in captivity is not as great relatively compared with wild animals as we might suppose, as in the case of wild animals at large we rarely or never see the sick individuals.

Dr. Fox and the Zoological Society are to be congratulated upon producing what is apparently the most important work of its kind and one which, as already pointed out, will be of service in many different ways as a work of reference.—W. S.

Mathews' 'The Birds of Australia.'—The last issue of this work¹ completes the Tree Creepers and covers the White-eyes and part of the Flowerpeckers. The six plates are by Grönvold and are up to the average of the work. The only new form that we notice in this instalment is *Zosterops lateralis investigator* (p. 153) from New Zealand, where it is said to have arrived from Australia and was supposed by Mr. Mathews to be identical with the Tasmanian form, but he now thinks it desirable to name it in order to "attract attention to the fact that a distinct form appears to be evolving."—W. S.

Chapman on New South American Birds.—Fifteen new forms are named in this paper² as a result of comparisons of material already on hand with recently acquired collections from eastern Ecuador containing topotypes of many "Napo" species. The new forms are: *Crypturus soui nigriceps* (p. 1), Upper Rio Suno, Ecuador; *Ortalis guttata caquetae* (p. 2), Caqueta, Colombia; *Trogonurus temperatus* (p. 2), Laguneta, Colombia; *Curucujus melanurus pacificus* (p. 4), Loja, Ecuador; *Anligena hypoglaucus lateralis* (p. 5), Junun, E. Peru; *Hypoxanthus rivolii meridae* (p. 6), Merida, Venezuela; *H. r. quindiuina* (p. 6), Laguneta, Colombia; *Chloronerpes rubiginosus coloratus* (p. 8), Chaupe, N. Peru; *Veniliornis dignus baezae* (p. 8), Baeza, Ecuador; *Myrmopagis ornata saturata* (p. 9), Upper Rio Suno, Ecuador; *Formicarius analis zamorae* (p. 9), Zamora e. Ecuador; *Hylopezus dives caquetae* (p. 10), Caqueta, Colombia; *Grallaricula peruviana* (p. 11), Chaupe, Peru; *Melanodera xanthogramma barrosi* (p. 12), Acanagua, Chile; *Philydor montanus yungae* (p. 12), is proposed for *P. m. bolivianus*, preoccupied.—W. S.

Stresemann on New Guinea Birds.—Dr. E. Stresemann has prepared a report³ on the ornithological results of Dr. Bürgers' collecting in the

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Volume XI, Part 3. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London, W. C. 1, December 27, 1923.

² Descriptions of Proposed New Birds from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. By Frank M. Chapman. Amer. Mus. Novitates, No. 96, November 19, 1923, pp. 1-12.

³ Dr. Bürgers' ornithologische Ausbeute im Stromgebiet des Sepik. Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelwelt Neuguineas. Von Dr. Erwin Stresemann. Abdruck aus dem 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' 1923, Abt. A. heft 7 und 8. Berlin, pp. 1-96, 1-92.