

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Saunders' 'Manual of British Birds.'** A third edition of this classic work<sup>1</sup> has just been published under the able editorship of Dr. W. Eagle Clarke who has brought it strictly up to date, adding such species and races as have occurred within the limits of the work since the last edition, and such additional information on distribution and habits as has been recorded.

The original edition, published in 1885, was conceived by the late Howard Saunders who had just completed editing the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds' and who realized the desirability of condensing the information contained in that work into a single volume, and in that manner make it available to a much larger number of students. The 'Manual' is thus as it were a lineal descendant of Yarrell's famous treatise. Many of the original Yarrell line cuts have been preserved though some of the birds have been redrawn by Lodge and half-tone cuts of additional species have been made from drawings by Grönvold.

The life histories are remarkably full when we consider that not more than two pages are allotted to a species, and that descriptions, measurements and exact records of rare occurrences are included. After the English name is given, in the heading, the modern trinomial name and a satisfactory binomial for those who do not desire to use trinomials, and finally in heavy type the character of the birds occurrence: "A Summer Visitant," "An Accidental Visitant," etc.

Of course the many technical details and full description of seasonal plumages so admirably covered in Witherby's modern 'Handbook' are not attempted in this work but it furnishes all the information that the average British bird lover or visiting ornithologist would desire and preserves the historic touch by perpetuating the names of Yarrell and Saunders so closely identified with the study of British birds.—W. S.

**A British Pocket Bird Book.** The author, Mr. Edmund Sandars, explains the object of this little volume<sup>2</sup> in the same clear and terse fashion in which he presents his subject, viz.: "The book was made for myself and is published in the belief that others may want what I wanted, namely, first, a book really small enough to carry in the pocket, with a text in clear type, but condensed to the utmost; secondly, drawings on

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<sup>1</sup> Manual of British Birds. By Howard Saunders. Third Edition revised and enlarged by William Eagle Clarke, I. S. O., LL. D., with 405 figures of species. Gurney and Jackson. London: 33 Paternoster Row, E. C. Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court, 1927, pp. i-viii + 1-834. Price 30 shillings net.

<sup>2</sup> A Bird Book for the Pocket. Treating of all the regular British species with coloured plates to scale and an illustrated chapter on eggs. By Edmund Sandars. Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford. 1927, pp. i-xix + 1-246. Price \$3.00 [American Branch, Oxford Press, New York, N. Y.].