

rado, which has become his winter residence, and where he has erected his "casa mia" on the very edge of the jungle so that various forms of tropical mammals and birds are his intimate companions. His long and varied experiences in tropical America—in the West Indies, Mexico and South America, and his well known literary ability have rendered him peculiarly well fitted for the preparation of this work, and he has produced one of the most delightful accounts of tropical wild life that has yet appeared, a book that holds the reader's attention from cover to cover.

In it we learn the history of Barro Colorado; a mountain top in the forest which by the damming of the waters has become an island in a lake. We follow the accounts of the strange tropical birds known to most of us only as stuffed specimens or inhabitants of our Zoos, but which at Barro Colorado may be studied as intimately as our door yard species at home. We read of Dr. Chapman's continued studies of the great tropical orioles, the Oropendolas, with their colonies of long pendant nests, swinging from the tree tops, and we see his interesting flash light photographs of the beasts that tread the trails of the forest near his cabin,—puma, ocelot, peccary and agouti, and enjoy his intimate accounts of the howling monkeys and coatis.

With the wonderful field for observation that surrounds him it is not surprising that Dr. Chapman has carried on some experiments and indulged in some theories regarding the birds of the tropics. Thus we find a chapter dealing with the sense of smell in the Turkey Vulture in which he, a staunch Audubonian, is tempted to differ from Audubon, and presents some very strong evidence in favor of the Buzzard's nose as against his eyes in the discovery of his food, although as he says the subject has not yet been exhausted. Another chapter deals with the vertical distribution and coloration of tropical forest birds and still another discusses the voices of birds of the tropics—but one must read the book to appreciate what a wealth of interesting information it contains. Besides Dr. Chapman's photographs there are many drawings of birds by Francis L. Jaques which add much to the attractiveness of the volume. The book is appropriately dedicated to Thomas Barbour and James Zetik "the builders" of Barro Colorado, and to Donato and Eminicia the "keepers of the castle."—W. S.

'**Carl Akeley's Africa.**'—While Akeley was not an ornithologist, there are few if any of our readers who are not familiar with his achievements as an explorer, taxidermist and photographer. His aim was not the scientific study of animals nor the building up of a series of study specimens but the preservation of African wild life in life—like reconstruction and in motion pictures, before civilization shall have made it a thing of the past. This became the chief object of his life and Africa became his ideal home-land. His wonderful reproductions of the wild life of Africa may be seen in the groups of the Field Museum, in Chicago, and in the African Hall of the American Museum, in New York, which has been named in his honor.

The present volume¹ by his widow, Mary L. Jobe Akeley, describes his last (fifth) African Exploration, the Akeley-Eastman-Pomeroy Expedition, organized to secure the necessary specimens for the completion of the African hall in the American Museum, and to further study the Gorillas of the Kivu mountain district. From this trip Akeley never returned, dying from fever soon after reaching the Kivu country.

Mrs. Akeley, who accompanied him, has written a graphic account of the expedition and has given us in this volume striking pictures of Africa and its wild animals, their hunting, and the preparation of the specimens.

The camps and daily routine of life are described with much detail, and one follows the search for a great bull giraffe, which is to be the central figure in the giraffe group, with intense interest, as well as the hunting of the African buffalo, the watching at the water holes and the "playing with friendly lions."

In the chapter entitled "The Swan Song of Old Africa" Mrs. Akeley presents the growing menace to wild life in Africa; the demands of agriculture and stock raising for the areas constituted as game preserves. Who can say what the future will bring forth or whether the efforts now being made for the preservation of the wild life of the British Empire will be successful. In Africa, as elsewhere, it is not going to be a conflict between the hunter and the conservationist but between civilization and the preservation of at least a part the wilderness.

While the bulk of the volume deals with the large mammals there is frequent mention of birds, the Turaco with its brilliant crimson wing patches, the brilliant Sun-birds and the White-necked Crows.

The descriptions and photographs of Africa will interest all classes of readers and hold the attention of all who enjoy travel and adventure, while they show incidentally what marked changes have already taken place since the time of Stanley and other pioneers. The book is handsomely gotten up and the illustrations well executed with an excellent portrait of Akeley as a frontispiece.—W. S.

Chisholm's 'Birds and Green Places.'—This volume² Mr. Chisholm has described as "a book of Australian nature gossip," and, so far as gossip makes interesting reading, the description is well merited. It is devoted to an account of the bird life of the great Australian state of Queensland which comprises some 670,000 square miles of territory, and whose birds,

¹ Carl Akeley's Africa. The Account of the Akeley-Eastman-Pomeroy African Hall Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. By Mary L. Jobe Akeley, F. R. G. S. Foreword by Henry Fairfield Osborn. With Illustrations and Maps. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. 1929, pp. 1-xix+1-321. Price, \$5.00.

² Birds and Green Places. A Book of Australian Nature Gossip. By Alec H. Chisholm, Author of *Mateship with Birds, Feathered Minstrels of Australia etc.*, sometime Editor of 'The Emu.' Profusely illustrated with photographs and two colored plates. London and Toronto. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. (1929), pp. 1-xiv + 1-224. Price 15 sh. net.