

**Buick's 'The Mystery of the Moa.'**—In this book<sup>1</sup> the author presents an exhaustive account of the great extinct Moas of New Zealand. While in one chapter he gives us a synopsis of the various species of Moas, some twenty-three in number, the main portion of the work is historical in character and covers in an interesting way the first discovery of Moa bones and the many that have followed, also the search for native traditions relative to the bird and the question of whether it still existed in historic time, all of which has been involved in more or less obscurity and mixed with contradictions and misstatements.

Besides the many bones one specimen of a smaller species of Moa was found in 1878 in Otago, near Queenstown, which still retained portions of the skin and some feathers, while the dried up eyes were still in their sockets. Nine or more eggs of the bird have also been found with the shells in a more or less perfect condition.

While there are several accounts of men who claimed to have seen the Moa, none of them are satisfactorily confirmed and the same is true of the stories told early emigrants to New Zealand by old Maori natives. Our author concludes, after assembling all the evidence, that the extermination of the great birds began with the arrival of the first of the Maori tribes, the Waitaha, in 1470, and was completed about 1770.

There are interesting accounts of the arrival of the first bones in England and of Prof. Richard Owen's researches, while numerous portraits of those connected with the discovery of Moa remains and with Moa literature, as well as pictures of important bones, skeletons, etc., serve as illustrations to this interesting book. There is an Appendix of notes and references to various publications and a good bibliography.—W. S.

**Hortling's 'Handbook of the Birds of Finland.'**—This excellent work<sup>1</sup> which we have already noticed in these columns is finally brought to conclusion with the appearance of part five although there is no indication of division into parts except for the separate covers, as the pagination is continuous. The work is well printed and thoroughly up to date. Under each species is a description, and accounts of habits, song, nesting, food, distribution and migration, while a paragraph is added giving the derivation of the technical name and the German, English and French vernaculars. The illustrations, of which there are forty-one, consist of photographs of well-mounted birds arranged in groups.

A systematic list of the birds of Finland and a bibliography complete

<sup>1</sup> The Mystery of the Moa | New Zealand's Avian Giant | By T. Lindsay Buick [etc.] | Published under the auspices of the Board of Maori Ethnological Research | Illustrated | New Plymouth, N. Z. | Thomas Avery & Sons Limited | 1931. Pp. i-xiii + 1-357. Price 15s.

<sup>1</sup> Ornitologisk Handbok | med beskrivningar öfver alla i Finland | anträffade fågelarter och raser | jämte avbildningar | och | inkom utförda ving-och äggmått m. m. | namnförklaringar | Utgiven | av | Dr. Ivar Holting | Helsingfors 1929[-1931] | Pp. 1-1142. Price fmk. 62.50 Dr. I. Hortling. Helsingfors-Brando, Finland.