

The Myology of the Raven (Corvus corax sinuatus). A Guide to the Study of the Muscular System in Birds. By R. W. SHUFELDT. London and New York, Macmillan. 8°. \$4.

THIS is a very unsatisfactory work, but fortunately of a unique character. According to its contents, it may be divided into three parts. The first consists of a badly arranged and insufficient description of the muscles of the raven, which constitutes the author's own work. In this, not the slightest notice is taken of the valuable papers and monographs of Professors Fuerbringer and Gadow, which form the basis for the morphology of the muscles of birds. The author writes, therefore, from an absolutely antiquated standpoint. The second part is composed of about 70 pages in German, copied from Gadow's recent work on the muscles of birds; and the third, of a bibliography of 144 works. The author prefaces this latter with the words "Important Works and Papers treating of the Muscles of Birds, compiled, abridged, and re-arranged from the Bibliographical Lists of Hans Gadow, and Several Other Sources, as well as Many New Titles added thereto by the Present Writer."

Of these 144 titles, 134 have been copied from Gadow in every detail. A paper of Duvernoy, for instance, is mentioned by Gadow, with the words "Kuerzere Notizen" ("shorter notes"), without giving the long French title. In the author's list this paper appears also under the title "Kuerzere Notizen." The abbreviation of Gadow's list consists in the omission of the very valuable short notes attached to the titles, giving the contents of the paper. It seems to have been too much trouble for the author to translate these notes, which are of such great importance to the student.

Of the ten new titles which are given by the author, four are those of papers which have appeared since Gadow's list was published, three are the titles of little text-books, two have nothing to do with the subject, and one special paper only was published before the appearance of Gadow's list.

In the preface the author says, "To those of my readers who are familiar with German, the best works I can recommend to be consulted in the present connection are the very excellent treatises of Selenka and Gadow in Bronn's 'Klassen des Thierreichs,' and that superb monument to avian morphology, the 'Untersuchungen zur Morphologie und Systematik der Voegel,' of Max Fuerbringer."

We wish the author had studied these works himself before he gave his book into the printer's hands. Perhaps he would have given us something better. But then, we ask, why did the author use and mention, besides his own papers, but 7 of the 144 works of which he gives the titles, in his descriptions? Four of these works are the text-books of Owen, Huxley, Mivart, and Parker: the others are the collected papers of Garrod and Forbes. Milne-Edwards is noted once. From Owen's "Anatomy" the description of the muscles of *Apteryx* is copied, and from the others many a page. The works of such authors as Klemm and Meursinge, who have written specially on the muscles of the raven, are not even mentioned. The explanation is easily given: the author did not take the trouble to read and study the papers the titles of which he gives in the bibliography.

The Distribution of Wealth. By RUFUS COPE. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 12°. \$2.

THIS book is another of those ambitious attempts to remedy all the economic ills of society which issue from the press at frequent intervals; and it is about as successful as the rest. The author begins in the usual way by informing us that the distribution of wealth in our day is very unequal, and that sundry evils of more or less portentous import result from this inequality. The facts in the case are set forth with a long array of statistics showing how great the inequality is; and the conclusion is then drawn that this inequality is unjust, and must be remedied. The principal remedies proposed are the abolition or sweeping reduction of interest, the repeal of patent laws, and some not very well defined control of natural and artificial monopolies. To patent laws Mr. Cope has a special antipathy, declaring that "no other single agency, perhaps, except interest on money, is more responsible for the present inequitable distribution of wealth." "Ricardo's law of rent," he says, "appears to be a formula de-

vised as a justification of the rapacity of landlords," yet he is not a disciple of Mr. George. The internal revenue taxes on malt liquors and tobacco he declares to be a great injury to the workmen; but he is very much in love with the protective tariff, and devotes a large space to a defence of it,—a defence very much needed in view of the recent elections. Such are some of Mr. Cope's ideas, but their merits as a solution of the problem in question are not apparent to us.

Sociology: Popular Lectures and Discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. By various authors. Boston, James H. West. 12°. \$2.

THE papers in this volume, though containing many points of interest, are not equal in merit to those that came from the same source a year ago. The editor says in his preface that sociology is the name of a new science,—the science of social evolution. Now, whether such a science, as something distinct from history, is possible or not, we shall not here inquire; but it certainly cannot be found in the pages of this book. The various essays it contains are often interesting and sometimes instructive; but they present nothing that can be called a science of social development. Several of them have no relation to social affairs, the remainder being divided between historical topics and methods of social reform. Some of the historical papers are very good; but they are far from presenting a comprehensive view of social evolution, some of the main elements of which are wholly neglected. We read here about the evolution of law and politics, of the mechanic arts, the science of medicine, and some other branches of human activity; but there is nothing about the general intellectual progress of the race, nothing about the evolution of religion and morals or of ideal art, and, strangest of all, nothing about the evolution of language, the instrument that makes society possible. The lectures on social reform present successively the theological method, the socialistic method, the anarchistic method, and the scientific method. That on the socialistic method, by a man who was at first attracted by the socialistic dream, but in the end strongly repelled by it, has been to us the most interesting. The two closing papers are tributes to the memory of Professors Asa Gray and Edward L. Youmans, written with the warmth of friendship as well as of scientific enthusiasm, and describing the services they rendered to science and to education. The discussions that followed the original delivery of the lectures are not reported in this volume, except in two cases; and we regret the omission, as we found those in the former volume on "Evolution" as interesting and suggestive as the lectures themselves.

Life of Arthur Schopenhauer. By W. WALLACE. London, Walter Scott; New York, A. Lovell & Co. 16°. 40 cents.

THIS volume is one of the series of Great Writers, of which many numbers have already been issued. It gives a clear and very readable account of Schopenhauer's life, with some notice of his philosophy. The materials for a biography are indeed few; for a philosopher's life is usually uneventful, and Schopenhauer's is no exception to this rule. There were, however, certain peculiarities in his life and character, which lend a somewhat peculiar interest to his biography, and make it read like a mixture of tragedy and comedy. His pessimism is often ludicrous, especially in a man who, after his eighteenth year, had nothing to do but what he chose to do; yet his natural tendency to melancholy, combined with his inordinate passion for fame, made him not only pessimistic in theory, but often really unhappy, in fact. His philosophy was late in winning recognition, and has never attained to much prominence in the world of thought; and it was this failure to win disciples which, more than any thing else, caused his melancholy. He believed that Hegel and other professional philosophers had conspired against him, and he vents on them all the vials of his wrath. Yet his works have undoubtedly received all the favor to which they are entitled, if not more, the exaggerated estimate which he formed of their originality and importance being wholly unjustified. Meanwhile, students of modern philosophy will be glad of this brief biography of the strange author of a strange metaphysical system. His leading work has for some time been accessible in English, while more recently a translation