

An unusually large proportion of the birds whose life histories make up the present part are species with which Mr. Nehrling is personally familiar; as a result most of the biographies are original and more than ordinarily interesting. Mr. Nehrling not only loves birds, but he has a keen ear for the harmonies of nature. "The Bobolink," he says, "never sings before sunrise. It begins its sweet music when the more earnest and solemn melody of the Robin, which was heard from earliest daybreak, is almost at its close. Nature seems to have ordained that the serious part of her musical entertainment in the morning hours should be heard first, and that the lively and merry strains should follow them. In the evening this order is reversed, and after the comedy is concluded nature lulls us to repose by the mellow notes of the Vesper Sparrow and the pensive and still more melodious strains of the solitary Thrush."

C. H. M.

The Book of Antelopes. By P. L. SCLATER and OLDFIELD THOMAS. With colored plates by WOLF and SMIT. 4°. London, R. H. Porter, 1895-96.

Since the notice of parts I. and II. of this admirable work (SCIENCE, April 5, 1895, p. 389) the first volume has been completed and one part of the second has appeared. Vol. I. contains 220 pages and twenty-four handsomely colored plates, besides numerous useful figures in the text.

Parts III. and IV. treat of the duikers (genus *Cephalophus*), and part IV., which completes the first volume, closes with an account of the four-horned antelope (*Tetraceros quadricornis*). The duikers, unlike most of the antelopes, live in brush and forests. They inhabit Africa south of the Sahara, and most of the species are restricted to West Africa. Twenty species are recognized, ranging in size 'from that of a small donkey down to that of a hare.' As a rule they are handsomely colored, though most of them lack the striking and, in some cases, startling recognition markings that characterize some of the other groups. A few of the species, however, as the banded duiker (*C. doriae*) and the yellow-backed duiker (*C. sylvicultrix*), are conspicuously marked.

Part V., comprising ninety-two pages and six colored plates, takes up the African subfamily Neotraginæ and treats of the klipspringer (*Oreotragus*), the oribis (*Ouretria*), the grysbok and steinboks (*Raphicerus*), the Zanzibar and Livingstone's antelopes (*Nesotragus*), the royal antelope (*Neotragus*) and the dik-diks (*Madoqua*).

The book of Antelopes is a timely work and it is matter for congratulation that the colored plates prepared under the supervision of the late Sir Victor Brook more than twenty years ago are finally given to the public accompanied by such authoritative letter press. If the distinguished authors have erred in the treatment of certain species it is on the side of conservatism, and it must be admitted that they have enjoyed unsurpassed opportunities for the study of the living animals at the Zoölogical Society's Gardens, of which the senior author has had charge for nearly forty years, and for the study of skins and skulls in the rich mammal collection of the British Museum, of which the junior author has long been curator.

Still, one is filled with regret at the large number of species unrepresented, or at most imperfectly represented, in museums, and it is sad to feel that many species are on the road to rapid extinction. Before it is too late sportsmen as well as naturalists should spare no pains to secure specimens of the rarer kinds and see that they reach some of the larger museums, where their permanent preservation will be guaranteed.

C. H. M.

Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers. By BERTRAM BLOUNT, F. I. C., F. C. S. and A. G. BLOXAM, F. I. C., F. C. S. Vol. I.—*Chemistry of Engineering, Building and Metallurgy.* Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co. London, Charles Griffin & Co., L't'd. 1896. 8vo, 244 pp., Illust. \$3.50.

This is the first volume of a small and concise work on Chemical Technology, which is especially intended for engineers, architects, builders and factory superintendents, as well as students of chemical technology. It is intended primarily for those whose knowledge of chemical theories and processes is limited, but so skilfully is the subject-matter presented that even trained chemists and expert engineers may find the