

the student when the subject treated is a branch of pure or applied science. And the author who neglects to avail himself of this simple method of enormously increasing the value of his book does grievous injustice to his subject, his readers and himself. No engineer can be a man of one book. The profession needs a broad and deep foundation. Outline treatises, schedules, abstracts from lecture courses and pocket manuals are valuable in their way, but they should be used only as guides to a systematic course of reading or as memoranda in which are collected the results of previous study.

No one probably knows the truth of these statements better than Prof. Crocker, and without doubt it is his recognition of the impossibility of making a complete presentation of his subject which has inclined him to supplement his text with so many valuable references. It is in this connection that the chief criticism upon this work is to be made. The sub-title, 'A Practical Exposition of the Art for the Use of Engineers, Students and Others interested in the Installation or Operation of Electrical Plants,' might fairly lead one to look for an encyclopedia or library even. The book is rather overloaded by its title.

The author has made excellent choice of his matter. The book is remarkably free from 'padding' and as we should expect in a work by Prof. Crocker, the form in which the topics are presented is direct and clear.

Like *Oliver Twist*, however, the reader is often inclined to ask for more of the same sort.

The student or engineer will find it helpful, if not complete. And we venture the assertion that the general reader and the "Others interested in the Installation and Operation of Electrical Plants" will find this on the whole the most satisfactory work published.

A. S. KIMBALL.

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*Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty.* By H. NEHRLING. 4°. George Brumder, Milwaukee. Part XIV. June, 1896.

Again it is our pleasant duty to announce the appearance of another part of Nehrling's meritorious work on North American Birds.

It opens with an excellent colored plate of

the Dickcissel by R. Ridgway. The male is singing in a field of red clover, with the mother on her nest below. Another plate by Goering shows the meadow lark and the bobolink, and also the yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds. The text treats of these species and also of several of the true orioles—Audubon's, Scott's, the hooded, orchard and Baltimore. The biographies, as in previous parts, take one into the woods and fields and marshes, where the birds live, and introduce him to the surroundings before bringing in the subject of the sketch. The matter on geographic distribution has received a little more attention than usual, and considerable information is given on food habits.

The announcement is made that two more parts will complete the present (2d) volume. This is good news, and we heartily commend the book to those who wish to procure, at a reasonable price, a reliable work, with colored plates, on the haunts and habits of North American birds.

C. H. M.

*Die Haustiere und ihre Beziehungen zur Wirtschaft des Menschen. Eine geographische studie,* VON EDUARD HAHN. Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot. 1896. 8°, pp. 581.

In this work the author has brought together in convenient form a large mass of facts concerning domesticated animals. He begins with the dog and ends with fish. Besides the ordinary domesticated mammals, he includes the yak, buffalo, deer, camel, lama, rabbit, cavy, and ferret. The number of birds treated is also considerable.

In dealing with the origin of the various breeds, the author usually quotes eminent authorities, rarely advancing views of his own. Footnote references are given in profusion, so that those interested in following up the subject shall not want for material.

The systematic part of the work, in which each animal is discussed at length, is followed by a geographical study, in which the several countries are discussed with respect to their domesticated animals.

C. H. M.

*The Gypsy Moth. A Report of the Work of Destroying the Insect in the Commonwealth*