

humble logician to point out various flaws in the argument.

I believe the Egyptologists do not accept the Zodiac of Denderah and the inferences of Biot as unreservedly as Professor Lockyer. The ethnologists will, I understand, raise many objections to Professor Lockyer's hypothesis of a change of race and religion. Mythologists will surely rebel against his treatment and interpretation of myths. Astronomers will point out how many stars there are and how few temples, so that it may not be so very difficult, given several hundred years of leeway, to choose a star to fit a temple. Plain people will ask how it is that a temple is, so to say, dedicated to one star and oriented by another. Sirius was the star related to Isis, Mut and Hathor. But the temples of these deities are not invariably oriented by Sirius. *Gamma Draconis* is a rather faint star. Why were not brighter ones selected?

After raising these objections and a crowd of others that might be brought forward, it remains that Professor Lockyer's book is a contribution of high value and merit. A question of importance has been plainly put. The method of solving it has been described in popular language. The data now available has been brought to the notice of everyone. If Professor Lockyer has done little more than this, and if his principal conclusions still call for further confirmation, he deserves the thanks of all concerned in these questions—and who is not?

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

Song Birds and Water Fowl. By H. E. PARKHURST. New York, Scribners. October, 1897. Illustrated by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. 12mo, pp. 286. Price, \$1.50.

If there is any truth in the law of supply and demand, the present flood of popular bird literature must be taken as evidence of an extraordinary if not unprecedented interest in the subject of birds and nature. It is a healthful interest and one which awakens and develops some of the better elements in our natures which are apt to lie dormant.

Mr. Parkhurst's 'Song Birds and Water Fowl' is not intended as an aid to the identification of specimens, but belongs rather to the class of popular nature studies. A fair idea of

the contents may be had from the chapter headings, which are as follows: A Boquet of Song Birds; Water Fowl; A Bird's-Eye View; Mistress Cuckoo; Sea Swallows; Bird's Nests; At the Water's Edge; Lake George; A Colony of Herons; Earliest Signs of Spring.

The book is illustrated by eighteen admirable full-page drawings by Fuertes.

C. H. M.

Birdcraft, a Field Book of Two Hundred Song, Game, and Water Birds. By MABEL OSGOOD WRIGHT. New York, The Macmillan Co. November, 1897. With 80 full-page plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. 8mo, pp. 317. Price, \$2.50.

The second edition of Mrs. Wright's 'Birdcraft' is a pleasant surprise. The cheap chromos of the first edition are replaced by a colored frontispiece and eighty full-page half-tone plates from original drawings by Fuertes, the powerful young bird artist who has so suddenly sprung into fame. Most of these drawings have recently appeared in 'Citizen Bird,' by the same author and Dr. Elliott Coues (noticed in SCIENCE of November 5, 1897, p. 706).

Since the text of the second edition of 'Birdcraft' is printed in the main from the same electrotype plates as the first, it is only necessary to refer to the review of the former (SCIENCE, June 7, 1895, p. 635), with the additional statement that the principal errors there mentioned have been corrected. The book in its present form is attractive, interesting and helpful and should be in the library of every lover of birds.

C. H. M.

Magic Stage Illusions and Scientific Diversions, Including Trick Photography. Compiled and edited by ALBERT A. HOPKINS, with an introduction by HENRY RIDGELY EVANS. New York, Munn & Co. 1897. With four hundred illustrations. Large 8vo. Pp. 556. Price, \$2.50.

The associations of the term magic are hardly suggestive of scientific processes or principles; they are more apt to call up an atmosphere of mystery and secret knowledge, a world of the