

sable to any one who wishes to keep up to date. The eight chapters into which the work is divided are devoted to collecting; tools and materials; casting; birds; mammals; fish, reptiles and crustaceans; skeletons; and the reproduction of foliage for groups. There is in addition an appendix giving the addresses of reliable firms from whom tools and materials may be purchased. All these contain important information and all are based on personal experience, and while naturally in some cases much of the ground has already been covered, yet it is surprising to see how much there is not only new, but good. The most important chapter is that relating to the mounting of mammals, and particularly of large mammals, ability to do this well being the crucial test of a taxidermist. Time was when they were stuffed in the most literal sense of the word, but the last twenty years have wrought a great change, and it no longer suffices to simply fill a big mammal with straw; he must be fitted to a nicety over a manikin modeled into shape with the greatest care. Mr. Rowley's special device is the *papier maché* manikin made on wire cloth, and this he claims when the skin is properly glued on will stand the test of time, a claim that is borne out by the appearance of specimens mounted in this manner, although we can be more certain of the result ten years from now. Only those who have had a practical acquaintance with the mounting of large mammals and watched their behavior in steam-heated halls can appreciate the desirability of some process that will give freedom of manipulation and prove enduring, for, like Mr. Rowley, we have seen the wreck and ruin of some beautiful specimens that simply went to pieces through the splitting of the skin, brought about by atmospheric changes. It might, however, have been well to have briefly described the manikin of excelsior, giving it as an alternative, since in the majority of cases it will do very well, and one without experience might hesitate before attempting the somewhat more difficult *papier maché* method.

Another valuable chapter is that devoted to the reproduction of foliage and flowers, for while this subject is well treated by Montagu Brown, yet he unfortunately omits a most important piece of information which Mr. Rowley

supplies, namely, how to make the 'fabrie' which is the basis of it all. While this reproduction may not be taxidermy, it has yet become an important matter since the modern museum calls, or should call, for the exhibition of groups showing animals amid their natural surroundings, and unless these surroundings are duplicated with great skill the result is discouraging.

The chapter on skeletons, though brief, is very good, although we suspect it would not occur to any one not familiar with the manner in which things are done at the American Museum to suggest the use of porcelain bath tubs for macerating purposes.

In regard to fishes Mr. Rowley well says that in most cases they are better reproduced by casting than by skinning and mounting the skin, and this is emphatically true of the larger species which seem to delight in setting at naught all efforts to mount them.

Here and there one could wish for just a little more information than is given, but as one of the aims of the book was to supply a good manual at a moderate price, conciseness was necessary and the book can be recommended not only to those who wish to be, but to those who already are taxidermists.

F. A. L.

Water and Public Health. By JAMES H. FUERTES. New York, John Wiley & Sons. Pp. 75. Price, \$1.50.

The method adopted by Mr. Fuertes, of stating many of his statistics in graphic form, is very acceptable to the general reader. The eye will grasp the meaning of a chart, and the mental picture of the same will be retained, while groups of simple figures make but a small impression.

An excellent point, insisted on by the author and forcibly illustrated, is that Europe is far ahead of us in the matter of carefully purifying such public waters as are suspected of being contaminated, and he further shows that America cannot expect immunity from epidemic disease should she continue the use of polluted supplies. The book is a valuable contribution to the literature of Water Supply.

W. P. MASON.