

business, conciliatory manners, and, above all, indomitable and conscientious industry in the discharge of the small and somewhat monotonous routine duties which constitute so large a part of a curator's life." No one not familiar with the requirements of a large public museum could have put the case so graphically, nor would he have added: "Such being the requirements of the profession, what are the inducements offered to me to take it up as a means of livelihood?" And in answer to this Sir William quotes some examples of the 'inducements' offered, which in many cases are small enough, and to us, on this side of the water, where museum work is beginning to be better appreciated, even pitifully small. And, again, we read that "museums do not grow of themselves; money, time, knowledge and loving and sympathetic care must be expended upon them," and that "a museum must have an endowment adequate to defray its expenses and especially to ensure the staff of intelligent, educated and paid curators required to maintain it in a state of efficiency." All of which comes with unusual force from one who had drawn one of the few great prizes in museums, but who nevertheless realized the general inadequacy of museum salaries.

As regards the exhibition part of a museum the ground is well taken that the number of objects should be limited, but that every care should be taken in their selection, preparation and installation, and a plea is entered for the 'sadly-neglected art of taxidermy.' While it is to be borne in mind that this plea was made nearly ten years ago, it is a plea that will stand reiteration for some time to come. The advocacy of the concentration of type specimens in large museums will commend itself to all workers, for while it may sound well to have it said that this and that institution possesses such and such types the student can well appreciate the boon of having them concentrated.

Local, School and Boys' Museums are each the subject of an essay, and each contains many valuable ideas, while the concluding paper of the museum series, though first in point of time, is devoted to the history of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. The evolution of this great institution from the collections left

by John Hunter is described at length, and while the museum owes its existence to the untiring zeal and industry of Hunter, yet we learn that in housing, caring for and adding to the Hunterian collection the College of Surgeons has expended over \$2,000,000.

In connection with the papers on museums Professor Flower pays tribute to the memory of Dr. G. Brown Goode, whose energy and devotion have done so much to advance the standards of museum methods in the United States.

Among the essays on subjects other than museums that on 'The Paleontological Evidence of Gradual Modification of Animal Forms' may still be read with profit, notwithstanding that since it was written, some twenty-five years ago, there has been a great accumulation of facts, especially through the labors of American paleontologists.

'Fashion in Deformity' will probably lead in favor among the anthropological papers, although all are interesting and instructive reading.

'Whales and Whale Fisheries,' the most recent of all, is a most admirable *résumé* of the subject; and the history of the southern whale fishery, now being repeated in the Arctic, shows well that no animal is too large nor its pursuit too difficult to prevent its extermination if only there is a little money in it.

While we can but regret the loss to science through the enforced period of restraint from active occupation noted in the opening lines of the preface, yet the bringing together and issuing of this volume of essays is at least some small compensation to the public.

F. A. L.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*Infinitesimal Analysis: Vol. I. Elementary: Real Variables.* WILLIAM BENJAMIN SMITH. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xv + 352. \$3.25.

*The Groundwork of Science: A Study in Epistemology.* ST. GEORGE MIVART. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons; London, Bliss, Sands & Co. 1898. Pp. xviii + 328.

*Die Chemie im täglichen Leben.* LASSAR-COHN. Hamburg und Leipzig, Leopold Voss. 1898. 3d Edition. Pp. vii + 317.