

Ernest Seton Thompson has won distinction in all three rôles. As a naturalist he has enjoyed opportunities for study and observation both in Canada and the United States, chiefly in Ontario, Manitoba and New Mexico. As a writer he is known as the author of 'Birds of Manitoba,' 'Mammals of Manitoba,' and numerous articles contributed to magazines and scientific journals. As an artist he is perhaps still more widely known through his 'Art of Taxidermy,' and work in illustrating several popular books on natural history, more especially on birds.

His latest book is original in conception and execution. Here he has brought together some of his most interesting adventures and field experiences, woven them into entertaining and instructive stories, and illustrated them in a manner entirely unique. Under the title of 'Wild Animals I have known' Mr. Thompson has departed from the beaten path of natural history description, and given us an insight into the habits and daily lives of some of the lower animals with which he has been on more or less familiar terms. He describes his friends from what might be termed the human standpoint, *i. e.*, not as mere objects, but as individuals endowed with personality and reason. "What satisfaction," he asks in the prefatory note, "would be derived from a ten-page sketch of the habits and customs of Man? How much more profitable it would be to devote that space to the life of some one great man. This is the principle I have endeavored to apply to my animals."

The book consists of eight stories detailing the adventures of Lobo, King of Currumpaw; Silverspot, a crow; Raggylug, a rabbit; Bingo and Wully, two dogs; The Springfield fox; the pacing mustang; and Redruff, a partridge. Lobo was a large wolf well known to the cattlemen of northern New Mexico who suffered from his depredations; Silverspot, an old crow, has received his name on account of a conspicuous white spot on the side of his head; Raggylug, a rabbit with a ragged ear. Each animal and bird had some peculiarity by which it could be readily distinguished and thus kept under observation, sometimes for several years. The stories are told in a delightfully interesting style and contain many new facts and observa-

tions. Nearly all end tragically, for, as the author explains, the end of a wild animal is usually tragic. The book is not, and is not intended to be, a scientific treatise on mammals. The reader is assured that the stories are true, but this does not necessarily imply that every detail was based on actual observation. In fact, it would be practically impossible to observe some of the scenes depicted in the biographies of the rabbit and the fox. In describing the habits of a particular animal there is little more than a skeleton of fact on which to build. The record is so fragmentary that an author is compelled to fill in the gaps from his general knowledge of the species and to represent the characters as he conceives them to be. Such descriptions are of necessity composite and subject to personal equation and imagination.

The book is copiously illustrated with 29 half-tone plates and a large number of marginal sketches. The type bed is narrow and the margins are utilized for sketches which are sometimes mere outlines or suggestions, but so skillfully executed as to make it possible to follow certain parts of the story merely by the illustrations. No one can fail to notice the author's careful attention to details and his skill in woodcraft. The student of natural history will find many things of interest in the descriptions and illustrations, and the general reader will not regret an introduction to some of the animals Mr. Thompson has known.

T. S. P.

*Human Anatomy.* Edited by HENRY MORRIS, M.A. Philadelphia, P., Blakiston's Sons & Co. 1898. Second Edition.

The appearance of a revised and enlarged second edition of this work within less than six years from its original entry into the arena is in itself a sign of success. The well-known textbooks of human anatomy which have held almost undisputed sway since the memory of the oldest teacher, continually enlarging their field with the lapse of years, are so strongly entrenched that the prospects of a new rival at first can hardly have appeared hopeful. Not only have they done their work very well, but their methods have become so familiar to teachers, and the latter have got so habituated to

them, that a new text-book is like a new pair of shoes, which have to be broken in before they can be called a comfort to their owners. There can be no question that this process is likely not to be a very rapid one. It is clear that this book has stood this preliminary test. It is written by several authors, but is fairly homogeneous. The aim is to disregard microscopic anatomy and to offer a text-book which shall present the facts of gross anatomy both in a practical and in a scientific way. It is needless to say that the latter requires references both to embryology and to comparative anatomy. The section on the bones by Sutton is remarkably well done. When we say that the joints are the work of the editor we have said enough to vouch for excellence—to all, at least, who know his earlier monograph (now unhappily out of print) on that subject. The peritoneum is the work of Treeves, which, again, is saying enough. We mean no slight to the other able writers whom we do not more particularly mention. The first edition concluded with a section on surgical and topographical anatomy which cannot but be welcome. In the present edition this is followed by a too short chapter on vestigial and abnormal structures. Variations of the muscles, of the vessels, and some of those of bones are considered in their respective sections. The book is a very good one. We could, perhaps, find flaws here and there, but a search for them is uncalled for, as most of our readers are not professed anatomists. We have but one serious criticism to make, namely, that in the section on the nervous system the most recent (but generally accepted) fundamental doctrines of the structure of that system have not received due recognition.

The illustrations are a most important part of a text-book on anatomy. We are happy to give these very high praise. We were on the point of making special mention of those of certain sections, but they are so good as a whole that we refrain.

To what extent this book will displace old and established favorites the future will show. It is a matter eminently unsafe to prophesy about, but the success already attained is, no doubt, an earnest of future progress.

THOMAS DWIGHT.

#### GENERAL.

THE proceedings of the forty-seventh meeting and fiftieth anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have been sent to members by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard. The volume, which contains introductory matter extending to 83 pages and 658 pages of text, appears very promptly, the address of President Eliot given before the Association on 'Destructive and Constructive Energies of our Government compared,' being here printed before the January issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*, which also contains it.

LADY WELBY has printed for private circulation a pamphlet extending to 61 pages, entitled 'The Witness of Science to Linguistic Anarchy.' The introduction opens with the statement: "The following collection of extracts, chiefly from *Nature*, *SCIENCE* and *Natural Science* have been selected from a much larger number, with the object of bringing together, in convenient form, evidence of an almost incredible state of things in the scientific world." We find an interesting collection of quotations on scientific nomenclature, showing a certain amount of diversity and conflict. Still they scarcely bear witness to a 'paralyzing nightmare of impotence,' and it does not follow as suggested by Professor Foster that an international tribunal should 'stamp the coin of science' by defining every new name. New words must come and language must be flexible if science is to grow. Certainly men of science should realize their responsibility and be careful in their use of terms, but words were made for science and not science for words. Those interested can probably obtain a copy of Lady Welby's pamphlet by addressing her at Denton Manor, Grantham, England.

WE have received for review a copy of 'Life's Comedy,' Third Series (Charles Scribner's Sons). *Life*, from the issues of which this Christmas book is a reprint, does not hesitate to leave its own field and display ignorance by attacking men of science who practice vivisection, which should warn us against trespassing on foreign territory. As *Punch* treats the anti-vivisectionists from the point of view that commends itself