

book is a valuable contribution to the scientific literature of the subject. It can be well recommended to students of physiological science. Teachers will find in the practical arrangement of the book and in the summaries of views only to be found in widely scattered publications, a welcome guide for arranging their lectures on this subject. Investigators, however, will always prefer to consult original contributions rather than text-books or handbooks.

OSCAR LOEW.

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*Annals of the South African Museum.* Volume I. Part 2. March, 1899.

The first of the papers (V. in the series) in this volume is 'On the Species of Opisthophthalmus in the Collection of the South African Museum, with Descriptions of Some New Forms,' by W. F. Purcell. The treatment of the genus is brought to a conclusion, three new forms are described, and the localities and local peculiarities of the specimens, numerous in the collection, are given at some length. In conclusion, the synopsis of all species known to the author, begun in a previous paper, is brought to completion. Article VI. is a 'Descriptive List of the Rodents of South Africa,' by W. L. Sclater, and is published as preliminary to a greater work on South African mammals. The genera are arranged according to the list published by Oldfield Thomas in the *Proc. Zool. Soc.* for 1896, and 62 species are mentioned, one *Malacothrix pentonyx* being new.

Article VII.—'Fifth Contribution to the South African Coleopterous Fauna,' by L. Péringuey, is devoted to the description of new Coleoptera, mostly in the collection of the museum.

Article VIII.—'On the South African Species of Peripatidæ in the Collection of the South African Museum,' by W. F. Purcell, gives full descriptions of the external systematic characters of three out of the four previously described species, with descriptions of four new species. These are *Peripatopsis leonina*, *P. sedgwicki*, *P. clavigera* and *Opisthopatus cinctipes*.

Article IX.—(by a misprint given as X.), 'A Contribution to the Knowledge of South African Mutillidæ,' by F. Péringuey, describes 26 new

species. This brings the number of South African species of this family to 169, but the number of which both sexes are definitely known is only 16.

The final paper X.—'Description of a New Genus of Perciform Fishes from the Cape of Good Hope,' by G. A. Boulenger, describes and figures *Atyposoma gurneyi*.

F. A. LUCAS.

*A Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 1665-1895.* HENRY CARRINGTON BOLTON. City of Washington, Smithsonian Institution, 1897. Second edition, pp. vii + 1247.

The first edition of Dr. Bolton's catalogue, issued in 1885, has been a great aid to scientific men and to scientific research, and a second edition, with many additional titles and much revision, is very welcome. The former edition contained the titles of 4,954 periodicals, and the present edition adds about 3,600 new titles, and gives further information in regard to many of the periodicals described in the first edition. Regarding all these journals full details are given—the date of establishment, the number of volumes issued, the place of publication, the editors, etc., including a history of the vicissitudes undergone by so many scientific journals. Over 200 pages are added, giving chronological tables, a subject index, and a check-list, showing in what American libraries the more important periodicals may be found.

The first part of the alphabetical catalogue is reprinted from the plates of the first edition with certain corrections. Then in the second part are the additions that could not be inserted in the plates and the new titles. This double alphabetical index is very inconvenient. It may indeed be reasonably claimed on various grounds that stereotyping is an invention for the retardation of science. The volume appears to be remarkably free from typographical errors in spite of the difficult proof reading, but it is not free from errors in compilation. Thus if we take the three leading American journals of general science, we find it said (referring to 1895), that the *American Journal of Science* is edited by 'James D. and E. S. Dana and B. Sillimann.' The *American Naturalist* is said to