statue, and to do so in the name of the Trustees of the British Museum, of whom I have the honor to be one. I have not forgotten that 15 years ago I performed a similar duty in connection with the fine statue of the celebrated Charles Darwin, which is at the top of the stairs, that was similarly handed over to the British Museum. We have heard to-day most eloquent and interesting speeches with reference to the illustrious man of science and the great thinker, Professor Huxley. It would therefore be both superfluous and I may even say unbecoming of me to sound his praises in the presence of so many men of science, who know far more about all his work than I do. I can only on my own part endorse everything that has fallen from the lips of those gentlemen who have spoken, and I beg only to repeat what great pleasure it has given me for the second time to have performed the interesting ceremony of taking over the statue of another great and illustrious man of science.

The statue is of marble and represents Huxley seated with his head somewhat bent, his right hand grasping the end of the chair, and his left clenched, as though, perhaps, to enforce an argument. He wears a gown and hood to indicate the honors of which, in more than one university, he was the recipient. The bushy eyebrows and the characteristic combativeness of his strong face are well realized, though in matter of likeness some who knew him well were not altogether satisfied. The work is of great beauty and finish, especially in the decoration of the chair. But it is permissible to doubt the suitability to a great personality not trained in a university or the inheritor of traditional methods, of the sitting posture and the academic attire. A great champion of the causes he espoused and formidable opponent of what he regarded as outworn theories, a standing attitude and such simple drapery as Owen wears before him might have better represented the man as he was in the flesh. But the work unquestionably possesses great artistic merit. The statue bears the inscription—

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY,
Born May 4, 1825.
Died June 29, 1895.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

A Manual of Zoology. By T. JEFFREY PARKER and WILLIAM A. HASWELL. Revised and adapted for the use of American schools and colleges. New York, The Macmillan Co. 1900. Pp. xxv+563; 327 figs. Price, $1.60.

This useful manual has been abridged from the well-known larger *Text-book of Zoology* by the same authors, with the intention of meeting the needs of students in the higher classes of schools. The book retains many of the merits that won so favorable a reception for the larger work. It is concise, clearly written, well illustrated and abreast of the times. It may nevertheless be questioned whether the 'Manual' is as well adapted to its purpose as the 'Text-book.' However widely teachers of zoology in the schools differ in regard to the plan and scope of work, most of them will probably agree that a text-book satisfactory for their purpose is hardly to be made by simple abridgement of a larger technical work, as has been done in this instance. By following this method the authors have produced a work which, despite many admirable features, is too largely a mass of technical anatomical detail, some of which might well have been sacrificed to make room for fuller accounts of the general natural history and relationships of animals, of physiological principles and of broader biological questions.

We fear that the American teacher who reads in the preface that this edition has been 'adapted for the use of American schools' will hardly feel himself fairly treated when he searches in the text for the basis of this statement. Here and there reference is incidentally made to char-

acteristic American forms, and a few—a very few—such forms are figured. With few exceptions, however, both the types and the forms described for comparison are European species, some of which differ materially from their American cousins; and we think the American editor might have taken the trouble to select American representatives of such common types as the tortoise, frog, salamander, snail, grass-hopper, *Nereis* and sea-anemone, or to describe the anatomy of the common squid instead of the European cuttle-fish. The book is nevertheless a very excellent one and will doubtless be welcomed by American teachers.

E. B. W.

A First Book of Organic Evolution. By D. Kerfoot Shute, A.B., M.D. Chicago, The Open Court Publishing Company. 1899. Pp. xvi + 285.

This is a brief account of some of the facts and theories that cluster around the central idea of Organic Evolution. The principle of heredity forms the guiding idea in connection with which is given, among other things, a discussion of the cell-theory, of variation, of the influence of environment, natural selection and the evolution of man. The last section gives a synopsis of the classification of animals, and, *in a half page*, of plants. There is a list of works of reference that may be useful to the general reader, and a glossary of terms that is on the whole accurate. The majority of the illustrations are good, especially the series of full-page plates prepared especially for the work. In the chapter on man sociological and ethical questions are discussed, the idea of design is upheld, and the author decides for a cosmic soul that 'may be self-conscious, wills, thinks, acts and designs.' "Man is the highest and greatest fruitage of the tree of animal life." "He has been the goal and is the completion of organic evolution." "He is not only the highest creature that has ever appeared on the globe, but it seems a safe induction to say that he is also the highest animal that evolution will ever develop here."

If anyone doubts that man is 'the topmost flower on the highest and *straightest* branch of the tree of life,' he has only to consult the diagram on p. 182.

In reading 'this little book' one has continually to remind oneself that it is a 'first book,' that is a primer, and that all the author has tried to do is to sketch an *outline* of modern biology as related to the theory of descent. Considering the limits of space and the almost infinite number and variety of the data from which selection is to be made, it must be admitted that the author undertook a difficult task. When we say, that one altogether unfamiliar with scientific biology might digest the whole book without acquiring any very serious errors of opinion, we are giving high praise. But, if such an one were to come later to the practical study of medicine or advanced biology, he might be surprised to learn, that the diagram of the maturation and fertilization of the *human* ovum given on p. 30 is a pure figment of the imagination, seeing that no one has ever observed these phenomena in the egg of man, that the chromatin of the nucleus is ever in any other form than that of threads, and that therefore *chromatin* and *chromosomes* are *not* synonymous terms (glossary and *passim*), that the nutrition of a cell does *not* include irritability and contractility (p. 7), that a cell is not necessarily *encysted* because it possesses a cell-wall, that parthenogenesis is not a form of budding (p. 42), nor is the fertilized egg '*hermaphrodite*' (p. 43). These are but a few examples of the altogether uncritical use of illustrations and terms, which is only partly excusable on the ground of the popular nature of the book.

The book is also dogmatic. A certain amount of dogmatism is unavoidable, and perhaps even to be desired in so popular a work. But it would be difficult to justify the following statement: "Intemperate people * * * also transmit" (by inheritance to their offspring) "the fatal tendency to crave for *the very substances* that have acted as poisons on these germ-cells before and after fertilization." The transition from fact to theory is, indeed, everywhere so easily made, that one uninitiated must be in constant doubt of his footing.

While the book never rises above the intellectual or literary level of the freshman class