

irons, curling irons, stoves for heating and for cooking, a "sterno-inferno coffee-machine set," and full-page illustrations of a "complete chafing-dish outfit trimmed with genuine ivory" and "teakettle set, trimmed with solid beaded edge."

Chapter VIII., "Alcohol as a Source of Power" (62 pp.). This chapter opens with twelve pages of excellent cuts and descriptive matter furnished by the Deutz Gas Engine Works "through the kindness of their American branch house, the Otto Gas Engine Works." Mietz and Weiss, Weber and Diesel, and Foos engines are illustrated.

Chapter IX., "Laws and Regulations for Denatured Alcohol" (32 pp.), is almost exclusively a compilation of circulars, regulations and acts of several governments; very interesting and useful, but they belong in the appendix.

A page on the recovery of denatured alcohol is forcibly injected into this chapter where it does not belong. The chapter closes with two pages on "spirit varnishes." This lost and forlorn little composition appears to contain all the book has to say upon the many important uses of denatured alcohol in chemical industries. It is indeed strange that a book on denatured alcohol should not give a brief sketch at least of the manufacture of ethyl ether, iodoform, artificial silk or smokeless powders. Chapter X. (14 pp.) gives extracts from consular reports, showing what enormous quantities of denatured alcohol are used for the above purposes in other countries.

Appendix (pp. 375-499). In this are reprinted government regulations, a report of a committee to the British Parliament, etc., all exceedingly interesting material, but almost all of it to be had for the asking and a postage stamp.

The bibliography on page 493 (not 489, as given in the index) is incomplete. Since some French and German titles are included, others should be. For instance, the *Zeitschr. f. Spiritusindustrie*, the German journal devoted to the subject, is not mentioned. Date and place of publication and authors' initials are in several instances omitted. If it is considered undesirable to include prices in a

bibliography, the size of the work might be indicated in terms of pages. In his preface the author says: "The scarcity of literature treating the subject of denatured or industrial alcohol is so great that there are practically no books concerning it." The reviewer had occasion to look up the literature of the subject about a year ago and found many more articles than he had the opportunity to read.

The book as a whole has little claim to consideration as a scientific treatise, and its usefulness "practically" is somewhat problematical, although it contains much that is both good and useful, of course. It is a scrap-book made up from a superabundance of electrotypes, plenty of government publications and dealers' catalogues, some journal articles and too few references. It is raw material which one would naturally collect as a preliminary step to writing a book.

S. LAWRENCE BIGELOW

Genera Avium. Edited by P. WYTSMAN. 4to. Brussels, V. Verteneuil and L. Desmet. Part VI., Picariæ.—Fam. Coliidae. By P. L. SCLATER. 1906 (1907). Pp. 6; pl. I. Part VII., Steganopodes.—Fam. Pelecanidae. By ALPHONSE DUBOIS. 1907. Pp. 4; pl. I. Part VIII., Picariæ.—Fam. Musophagidae. By ALPHONSE DUBOIS. 1907. Pp. 9; pls. II.

Three more parts¹ of this useful work have recently been published, one of which (part VI.), though dated 1906, apparently was not issued until May, 1907. The general treatment is the same as that of preceding parts, and need not again be explained. "Genera Avium" is, of course, not an exhaustive treatise, but the editor, Mr. P. Wytzman, deserves the thanks of ornithologists for his efforts to bring out a work that shall present in convenient, succinct form, the most important points regarding genera and species, with due regard for the results of recent research.

The Coliidae, or colics (part VI.), a highly peculiar African family allied to the kingfishers, is considered by Dr. Sclater to con-

¹ For a notice of the five previous numbers, cf. SCIENCE, N. S., XXIV., 1906, pp. 438-439.

sist of eight species. No subspecies are admitted, notwithstanding that all but two of the species have been subdivided, and we think rightly, by recent authors. The nomenclature is not fully up to date, for two of the species have older tenable names than those here used. A new name, *Colius hæmatonotus*, is given, apparently by inadvertence, in the key on page three, to *Colius castanonotus* Verreaux. Our author refers all the species of this family to a single genus, but, as we have elsewhere shown, *Urocolius* Bonaparte, containing *Urocolius macrourus* and *Urocolius indicus* (= *erythromelon* Auct.), has more than one claim to recognition. The single plate in this part represents *Colius leucocephalus* and details of two other species.

The cosmopolitan family Pelecanidæ (pelicans) (part VII.) comprises, according to Doctor Dubois, the single genus, *Pelecanus*, with eleven forms, three of which he ranks as subspecies. In the case of *Pelecanus californicus*, which he considers a race of *Pelecanus fuscus* (or, as it should be called, *Pelecanus occidentalis* Linnæus), he is probably right; but *Pelecanus thagus* Molina is apparently a distinct species. The plate shows a figure of the somewhat doubtful *Pelecanus sharpei*, together with the heads of four other forms.

The Musophagidæ, or plantain eaters (part VIII.), another characteristic African family, are here referred to seven genera, without subfamilies. The largest genus, *Turacus*, contains twenty-one forms, including several subspecies; but all the other genera are small, none having more than four species. Two of them—*Corythæola* and the recently discovered *Ruwenzorornis*—are monotypic. We are glad to see that Doctor Dubois adopts the original form of the generic name *Chizærhis* Wagler, instead of the emendation *Schizorhis* so much in vogue. No new forms are described in this number. The two plates illustrate nine species.

HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The *American Museum Journals* for November and December are both out containing much information in regard to the work of

the Museum. There is a new departure in the shape of colored plates, one showing a boulder containing a deposit of precious opal on quartzite, the other the group of wild turkeys recently placed on exhibition. The December number contains accounts of the expeditions made in 1907 to obtain material for bird groups, of the making of an Attu basket, and of an ant-hunting trip to Europe. It also comprises the Index to Vol. VII.

The *Bulletin of the Charleston Museum* for November continues the "History of the Museum" by William G. Mazyck and covers the period from 1798 to 1850. We find here many notable and well-known names, such as Gibbes, Holmes, Holbrook, Bache, Maury and Twomey.

Bird Lore for November-December is of unusual interest and contains illustrated articles on "A Thrashing by Thrashers" by Herbert K. Job, "Around the Horn for Petrels" by John T. Nichols, "The Heath Hen" by George W. Field, "A Season's Field Work" by Frank M. Chapman, and the "Migration of Flycatchers" by W. W. Cooke. The number comprises a long and interesting Report of the Work of the Audubon Societies by the President, William Dutcher, and various Special Agents. This should be read by everyone.

The *Museums Journal* of Great Britain for November notes the gift to Bournemouth of the residence and collections of Mr. Cotes to form an Art Gallery, another of the many instances where collections made by men of wealth have eventually found their way to the public. W. W. Watts discusses "Some Uses of a Museum of Industrial Art," noting the importance of arousing interest in artistic objects, by showing their historical associations or the conditions under which they have been made. A. B. Meyer presents "Some Notes on the Peacock in Display" showing that the position of the wings may be different in different individuals.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE winter meeting of the academy was held in the Shortridge High School at In-