

NEW BOOKS

TREES, by Thomas O. Sheckell. Published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, N. Y. 82 art gravures. Price, \$4.00.

The supreme expression of beauty in nature has been captured in this unusual volume of rare photography, which presents eighty-two art gravures, many of which have been hung in leading salons of photographic art throughout the world and have brought Mr. Sheckell a reputation as a poet and artist with the camera. (Readers of *American Forests* will recall Mr. Sheckell's "In the Path of the Storm" which was awarded first prize in the competition conducted in 1933 by The American Forestry Association for beautiful photographs of trees—as well as many other subjects which he has been good enough to contribute to its pages.)

Each picture in "Trees" is a delight in itself, as an achievement in composition in black and white, in plane surfaces, in depth and design—and each conveys with striking vividness some new aspect of the human significance of trees.

Those interested in photography will find here a challenge and a delight; those interested in trees will cherish it.—E. K.

THROUGH THE WOODS, by H. E. Bates, with 73 engravings on wood by Agnes Miller Parker. The Macmillan Company, New York. 141 pages. \$3.00.

This is an English book—written by an Englishman of renown in literary fields—about an English wood, but it is written for all true lovers of the woodland. Such woodlanders love not only the wood but all the life with which it is filled—and at all the seasons. And here it is pictured for them in perfect cycle, from April back again to April—a word picture, painted by a master who knows and loves the English countryside. His colors are the vibrations of the seasons—Spring's delicate green promises and fragile pastel tints; Summer's glory in shades of rich fulfillment and Autumn's brilliant harvest fruitage, blended in perfection by the softening that only Winter's tones can bring—when the wood is deep in nature's sleep, under "the absolute silence of snow."

Only in England shall he find the gardens he describes, "lying under the shelter of a wood . . . a paradise of a million primroses." And again, "bluebells crowd out everything, drown the whole wood-floor with great pools of flower until the trees, in May, seem to be standing in deep lakes of liquid mauve." And not only gardens, but the trees that make up the wood; the running water that quickens and gives it life; foxes and squirrels, nightingale and jays—all the small people and flowers of the wood are component parts of this charming picture.

The author's text is illustrated by wood engravings of rare beauty and feeling, done by Agnes Miller Parker, one of England's outstanding artists. Reading "Through the Woods" will indeed be found a gladsome journey.—L. M. C.

MICHIGAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT, by M. D. Pirnie. Published by the Game Division, Michigan Department of Conservation, Lansing, Michigan. 328 pages; illustrated. Price, \$1.50.

To the student or layman interested in efficient handling of present and future waterfowl problems, this book is particularly valuable. It covers not only the complicated biology and economics which are involved in the efficient conservation of wildlife, but deals at length with recreation problems.—E. K.

THE REPTILES OF NORTH AMERICA, by Raymond L. Ditmars. Published by Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., New York, N. Y. 465 pages; 135 pages illustrations. Price, \$6.75.

Twenty-nine years ago, under the title of "The Reptile Book," the first edition of this book appeared. Soon thereafter it became recognized as a national standard for the study and identification of the reptiles of North America.

In revising it, Dr. Ditmars faced a formidable task. The slow but steady development of technical nomenclature has produced changes among most of the scientific names, and trinomial designation has been applied to many. Twenty-eight new species of snakes have been discovered since the publication of the first edition, also forty-seven lizards and ten turtles. Many new sub-species have been named. All are included in this new volume.

The bulk of the descriptions have been rewritten by Dr. Ditmars to facilitate identification and new keys prepared for the greater number of genera. That part of the work relating to snakes has been expanded. The latest methods in the treatment of snake bite are given in detail.

All told, this completely new and revised edition, including up-to-date additions to species and new classifications of turtles, tortoises, crocodilians, lizards and snakes sets a new standard for the study and identification of the reptiles of North America.—E. K.

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