

Since that time Mr. Rowley, assisted by a trained staff, has added many noteworthy examples of taxidermic art to the museum collections, the most effective of which is the group of moose, doubtless one of the finest pieces of taxidermy in this country.

In its preparation Mr. Rowley visited the region represented, and the bounds of his experience include many such expeditions to the lands of the animal afterward to be mounted in his laboratory. The book he has written reflects the wide scope of his training. It is arranged in eight chapters. The first treats of field-work, the outfit, hunting, trapping, etc.; the second, of tools and materials; the third, of casting; the fourth, of birds; the fifth, of mammals; the sixth, of fish, reptiles, and crustaceans; the seventh, of skeletons; the eighth, of the reproduction of foliage for use as accessories in groups; and an appendix gives the names of reliable firms from whom taxidermists' supplies may be purchased.

Mr. Rowley's distinguishing characteristics as a taxidermist are patience and originality. His methods are for the most part his own. Instead of the excelsior, clay-covered mannikin, described by Hornaday, he makes a model of gauze-wire covered with plaster composition, practically as hard and dry as marble. Over it he places, not a pickle-soaked, and often discolored skin, but a tanned hide whose colors have not been subjected to the action of chemicals. Thus shrinking, split-seams, and cracking are things of the past. Photographers should note Mr. Rowley's suggestion to use formalin in hardening gelatin films, while his chapter on artificial foliage describes satisfactorily for the first time the manner in which the accessories of our modern groups are produced. In short, this book fully presents the unequalled advance which has been made in the art of taxidermy during the last decade, and as such it must at once replace all other works relating to the subject.—F. M. C.

**Birds of Los Angeles Co., Calif.**<sup>1</sup>—In his introduction the author states that the "present list, with the accompanying notes, is the result mainly of observations made by members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, and cover little more than the past six or eight years." He is commendably conservative, entering only those species whose occurrence is beyond doubt, and submitting all difficult questions of identification for expert opinion. The list is therefore authoritative. It includes 300 species and subspecies, all being concisely annotated.—F. M. C.

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<sup>1</sup> *Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles County [Calif.], A List with Brief Notes.* By Joseph Grinnell, A. B., Assistant Instructor in Biology, Throop Polytechnic Institute. Publication No. 2, Pasadena Academy of Sciences. 8vo. pp. 52. Press of G. A. Sweedfger, Pasadena, California. March, 1898.