

climatic conditions, and life zones and their bird-life. This last section contains, as it were, the motif of the whole work—the application of the details enumerated in the systematic portion, which follows, to the working out of the life zones, their origin and the probable history of the development of the Andean mountain chain.

The characteristics of each zone are considered; the habitats which it exhibits, lists of characteristic species, with comparison with those of other zones, and finally the summary and conclusions.

This portion of Dr. Chapman's work is a really notable contribution to zoögeography and should be read by all intended in this fascinating field.

Part II, the systematic portion, naturally takes up the greater part of the volume and is an admirable piece of work, following almost exactly the plan adopted in the Colombian report. The new forms discovered seem all to have been described in preliminary papers.

Dr. Chapman professes "a profound lack of interest in questions of nomenclature, as such" and is willing to adopt a "statute of limitations or a perpetually closed season on synonymy hunting \* \* \* the principles of *auctorum plurimorum, nomina conservanda* or any others that will prevent the ceaseless tinkering with names." We can heartily sympathize with him but like most writers, who make such protests he suggests no definite remedy. Perhaps some nomenclatural League of Nations may someday prevent the warfare of names but we must admit the outlook so far is not promising! And so like Dr. Chapman we each continue to select the names we like the best.

It is impossible in the space at our disposal to adequately review a work of the scope of the present volume. Our readers must consult it for themselves and they should all of them, read the discussion of the Andean life zones as it has an interest and bearing far beyond the limits of Ecuador. We congratulate Dr. Chapman upon another notable work which strengthens him in his position as one of the leading authorities on neotropical bird-life. We trust he may pursue his way down the Andes, leaving in his wake a whole series of these portly volumes and then turn his attention to the great Tropical lowland, stretching away from the mountains to the Atlantic, for none is better qualified for the task.—W. S.

**Nesbit's 'How to Hunt with the Camera.'**—There have been quite a number of books and articles on nature photography but none we believe which at all compare with Mr. Nesbit's sumptuous volume<sup>1</sup>. It is written, he tells us, not for the person who is content to push the button and trust to luck, but for those who are willing to give considerable thought and much hard work to the subject. All photographers of the latter class should undoubtedly possess the work if possible and will, we are sure, turn

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<sup>1</sup> *How to Hunt with the Camera. A Complete Guide to all Forms of Outdoor Photography.* By William Nesbit. With many illustrations. New York, E. P. Dutton & Company, 681 Fifth Avenue. Quarto pp. i-xiv + 1-337. Price \$10.00, postage extra.

to it again and again for the data and detailed information upon their favorite hobby with which its pages teem.

In the present connection we can do no more than present a brief outline of its contents, leaving those interested to study at leisure the portions of the book which pertain to the special topics in which they are interested.

Beginning with general suggestions for beginners we pass to a forceful plea for the better protection of our wild life, then comes Chapter III entitled "Branches of Photography" in which are considered animal and bird photography, aerial, astronomical and flash-light photography, flower and insect photography and the photography of lightening, snow and moonlight scenes, all interspersed with details regarding equipment and beautifully illustrated. There are also not a few diversions on the habits of the animals whose photography is being discussed, including quite a treatise on snakes, their habits, venom, etc.

Chapter IV consists of "Glimpses of the Vanishing Animal Kingdom of Africa," based on the leading publications on the subject and illustrated by Martin Johnson's wonderful photographs and others from the New York Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History. Next comes (Chapter V) a "Partial Who's Who in Nature Photography," with portraits and biographical sketches of such well-known photographers and writers as Akeley, Baynes, Burroughs, Dugmore, Chapman, Ditmars, Finley, Hornaday, Johnson, Roosevelt, Seton, Shiras and others.

The rest of the work, comprising nearly half of the volume, is devoted to the more technical side of the subject—cameras, lenses, development, exposure, flash-light apparatus and transparencies.—and contains a vast amount of technical data and valuable information.

The illustrations, beginning with the frontispiece—Mr. John M. Phillips' prize winning portrait of the Mountain Goat, form a most attractive presentation of the possibilities of nature photography and are contributed by the leading exponents of the art.

Mr. Nesbit is to be congratulated upon the splendid contribution that he has made to his favorite hobby and we feel sure that he will be successful in diverting many "gun hunters" to the ranks of the "camera hunters," for as he truly says many persons who would fain have become animal photographers have been discouraged by lack of knowledge of the camera and how to use it and this knowledge he has in this volume abundantly supplied.—W. S.

**Dewar's 'Birds of an Indian Village.'**—This little volume<sup>1</sup> is distinctly popular in character and is apparently intended primarily for the boys and girls, to judge by its intimate conversational style. The author's aim, as he tells us, is to interest the people of India in birds and bird study,

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<sup>1</sup> *Birds of an Indian Village.* By Douglas Dewar and Illustrated by G. A. Levet-Yeats. Second Edition. Oxford University Press. 1924. (American Branch, New York. N. Y.) pp. 1-146. Price \$2.00.