

Lucy Bakewell Audubon not only loved him and had absolute faith in him, but in addition she was a very paragon of practicability. She took upon her shoulders virtually the entire responsibility of supporting herself and her children and carried the burden for many years, and when the time came it was Lucy Bakewell Audubon who provided the big part of the fund needed to launch John James Audubon upon his epochal undertaking."

We have to thank Mr. Muschamp not only for a fascinating sketch of a remarkable man but for the opportunity of viewing a familiar figure from a different point of view—through new glasses as it were, and his book will for these reasons attract the attention not only of ornithologists but of a great mass of readers who enjoy good writing and interesting personalities. A word must be said also on the thoroughness with which the author has covered the literature of his subject, for the chapter on bibliography and acknowledgements includes practically everything that has been written by or about Audubon. The publishers too have done their part, both in typography and binding, to produce an attractive volume.—W. S.

Chapman's 'My Tropical Air-Castle.'—In 1918 the reviewer prepared a report upon a collection of birds secured by an engineer of the Panama Canal and thinking that with the opening of the Canal there might be persons visiting the Zone who would desire a knowledge of its bird life, he included a list of all the species hitherto recorded from the territory. Little did he dream of the almost instant demand for his *separata* or of the wonderful developments along ornithological lines that have taken place in the few years that have intervened.

There has been established in the Zone, as most of our readers are aware, a research station where properly accredited students may be comfortably located on an island, Barro Colorado, covered by virgin forest, which is maintained as an absolute sanctuary under control of the Government, and conducted by the Institute for Tropical Research in America. Every year we find in one publication or another valuable contributions to science presenting the results of the intimate study of tropical wild life made possible by this station. And every year teachers and students in our universities and museums gain knowledge and inspiration from a personal contact with the tropics which formerly was unattainable.

Mrs. Bertha Bement Sturgess, realizing fully the demand for a Panama bird list, published last year her 'Field Book of the Birds of the Panama Canal Zone' and now comes Dr. Chapman's fascinating volume 'My Tropical Air Castle,'¹ in which he describes his experiences at Barro Colo-

¹ My Tropical Air Castle. Nature Studies in Panama. By Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Birds in The American Museum of Natural History. Illustrated with drawings by Francis L. Jacques and from photographs by the Author. D. Appleton and Company. New York, London. MCMXXIX. Pp. i-xv + 1-417. Price \$5.00.

rado, which has become his winter residence, and where he has erected his "casa mia" on the very edge of the jungle so that various forms of tropical mammals and birds are his intimate companions. His long and varied experiences in tropical America—in the West Indies, Mexico and South America, and his well known literary ability have rendered him peculiarly well fitted for the preparation of this work, and he has produced one of the most delightful accounts of tropical wild life that has yet appeared, a book that holds the reader's attention from cover to cover.

In it we learn the history of Barro Colorado; a mountain top in the forest which by the damming of the waters has become an island in a lake. We follow the accounts of the strange tropical birds known to most of us only as stuffed specimens or inhabitants of our Zoos, but which at Barro Colorado may be studied as intimately as our door yard species at home. We read of Dr. Chapman's continued studies of the great tropical orioles, the Oropendolas, with their colonies of long pendant nests, swinging from the tree tops, and we see his interesting flash light photographs of the beasts that tread the trails of the forest near his cabin,—puma, ocelot, peccary and agouti, and enjoy his intimate accounts of the howling monkeys and coatis.

With the wonderful field for observation that surrounds him it is not surprising that Dr. Chapman has carried on some experiments and indulged in some theories regarding the birds of the tropics. Thus we find a chapter dealing with the sense of smell in the Turkey Vulture in which he, a staunch Audubonian, is tempted to differ from Audubon, and presents some very strong evidence in favor of the Buzzard's nose as against his eyes in the discovery of his food, although as he says the subject has not yet been exhausted. Another chapter deals with the vertical distribution and coloration of tropical forest birds and still another discusses the voices of birds of the tropics—but one must read the book to appreciate what a wealth of interesting information it contains. Besides Dr. Chapman's photographs there are many drawings of birds by Francis L. Jaques which add much to the attractiveness of the volume. The book is appropriately dedicated to Thomas Barbour and James Zetik "the builders" of Barro Colorado, and to Donato and Eminicia the "keepers of the castle."—W. S.

'**Carl Akeley's Africa.**'—While Akeley was not an ornithologist, there are few if any of our readers who are not familiar with his achievements as an explorer, taxidermist and photographer. His aim was not the scientific study of animals nor the building up of a series of study specimens but the preservation of African wild life in life—like reconstruction and in motion pictures, before civilization shall have made it a thing of the past. This became the chief object of his life and Africa became his ideal home-land. His wonderful reproductions of the wild life of Africa may be seen in the groups of the Field Museum, in Chicago, and in the African Hall of the American Museum, in New York, which has been named in his honor.