

The present volume¹ by his widow, Mary L. Jobe Akeley, describes his last (fifth) African Exploration, the Akeley-Eastman-Pomeroy Expedition, organized to secure the necessary specimens for the completion of the African hall in the American Museum, and to further study the Gorillas of the Kivu mountain district. From this trip Akeley never returned, dying from fever soon after reaching the Kivu country.

Mrs. Akeley, who accompanied him, has written a graphic account of the expedition and has given us in this volume striking pictures of Africa and its wild animals, their hunting, and the preparation of the specimens.

The camps and daily routine of life are described with much detail, and one follows the search for a great bull giraffe, which is to be the central figure in the giraffe group, with intense interest, as well as the hunting of the African buffalo, the watching at the water holes and the "playing with friendly lions."

In the chapter entitled "The Swan Song of Old Africa" Mrs. Akeley presents the growing menace to wild life in Africa; the demands of agriculture and stock raising for the areas constituted as game preserves. Who can say what the future will bring forth or whether the efforts now being made for the preservation of the wild life of the British Empire will be successful. In Africa, as elsewhere, it is not going to be a conflict between the hunter and the conservationist but between civilization and the preservation of at least a part the wilderness.

While the bulk of the volume deals with the large mammals there is frequent mention of birds, the Turaco with its brilliant crimson wing patches, the brilliant Sun-birds and the White-necked Crows.

The descriptions and photographs of Africa will interest all classes of readers and hold the attention of all who enjoy travel and adventure, while they show incidentally what marked changes have already taken place since the time of Stanley and other pioneers. The book is handsomely gotten up and the illustrations well executed with an excellent portrait of Akeley as a frontispiece.—W. S.

Chisholm's 'Birds and Green Places.'—This volume² Mr. Chisholm has described as "a book of Australian nature gossip," and, so far as gossip makes interesting reading, the description is well merited. It is devoted to an account of the bird life of the great Australian state of Queensland which comprises some 670,000 square miles of territory, and whose birds,

¹ Carl Akeley's Africa. The Account of the Akeley-Eastman-Pomeroy African Hall Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. By Mary L. Jobe Akeley, F. R. G. S. Foreword by Henry Fairfield Osborn. With Illustrations and Maps. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. 1929, pp. 1-xix+1-321. Price, \$5.00.

² Birds and Green Places. A Book of Australian Nature Gossip. By Alec H. Chisholm, Author of *Mateship with Birds, Feathered Minstrels of Australia* etc., sometime Editor of 'The Emu.' Profusely illustrated with photographs and two colored plates. London and Toronto. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. (1929), pp. 1-xiv + 1-224. Price 15 sh. net.

we are told, "have scarcely been mentioned in print save through the medium of text books." Mr. Chisholm's familiarity with his subject and his literary ability enable him to tell us about these birds in anything but text book style, and he presents vivid pictures of the various species in their native haunts, which will appeal to all students of bird life.

Of the elusive Scrub Bird (*Atrichornis*) there is probably more life history in the pages of Mr. Chisholm's book than in all other literature combined. The extraordinary mocking ability of the Lyre Bird is described at length and we learn that it is able to mimic the human voice as do the Parrots. The various problems involved in the marvellous playgrounds of the Bower birds also come in for detailed consideration as well as the swarming of the Martins, which by the way are not Martins at all but Wood Swallows, a family peculiar to the old world—but one must read the book to realize the amount of interesting information that it contains.

We have several times in these columns criticised the killing of the Emus in Australia and Mr. Chisholm speaks very strongly on the same subject, although the bounty on the birds has now, we understand, been removed. After referring to the extinction of the Emus on King Island, Kangaroo Island and Tasmania, he says: "are we to permit the tragedy to reach its zenith in the case of the mainland bird?" We learn that Emus were first hunted for sport, then persecuted as destroyers of fences etc., and finally outlawed on suspicion of spreading the prickly pear cactus. Bonuses were paid on some 132,000 Emus and 100,000 eggs and "while the holocaust was in progress an entomologist found 2991 injurious caterpillars in the stomach of one Emu!"

A sheep grower is quoted by Mr. Chisholm as refusing to join in the extermination of the Australian Eagles, which are charged with the destruction of lambs, on the ground that "there's enough lambs for both me and the Eagle." Would that our wealthy Duck and Quail hunters and the salmon fishers of our northwest, would take such an attitude regarding our birds of prey instead of making every effort for their extermination!

Mr. Chisholm is already well known to the ornithological world as a bird photographer, author of 'Mateship with Birds' and as a former editor of 'The Emu', but this volume seems to be his greatest achievement, and we can recommend it heartily to all who would gain some knowledge of the bird life of the Antipodes. The book is well gotten up and illustrated with half-tones from photographs and colored plates of the Lyre bird and Paradise Parrot.—W. S.

Scoville's 'Wild Honey.'—This volume¹ of Mr. Scoville's is, we think, the best that he has produced. While there is plenty of local color and many amusing incidents the general tone is more serious and much interesting

¹Wild Honey by Samuel Scoville, Jr. With Reproductions of Etchings by Emerson Tuttle. Boston. Little, Brown, and Company. 1929, pp. 1-203. Price \$3.00.