

SCIENCE

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PROBLEMS OF BIOLOGY.

CONTENTS:

<i>Problems of Biology</i> : PROFESSOR E. G. CONKLIN..	85
<i>Language Study</i> : PROFESSOR J. MARK BALDWIN	94
<i>The Work at the Biological Laboratory of the U. S. Fish Commission at Woods Holl</i> : PROFESSOR HERMON C. BUMPUS	96
<i>Zoological Notes</i> :—	
<i>Publications of the American Museum of Natural History</i> : F. A. LUCAS.....	96
<i>Current Notes on Meteorology</i> :—	
<i>The Climate of the Philippines; Sonnblick Verein; Notes</i> : R. DEC. WARD	97
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology</i> :—	
<i>Later Criminology; The Delusion of 'Atavism; Origin of the Cliff Dwellings</i> : PROFESSOR D. G. BRINTON.....	99
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> :—	
<i>Extension of the Weather Service; The Spectrum of Metargon; The British Government and Antarctic Exploration; Professor Koch on the Plague; General</i>	99
<i>University and Educational News</i>	107
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Substitutional Nervous Connection</i> : PRESIDENT C. L. HERRICK. <i>The Exhibition of Cetaceans by Papier Maché Casts</i> : DR. F. W. TRUE.....	108
<i>Scientific Literature</i> :—	
<i>Gray's Treatise on Magnetism and Electricity</i> : PROFESSOR JOHN TROWBRIDGE. <i>Bibliography of the Metallic Carbides</i> : H. C. B. REEVES <i>on Brown Men and Women</i> : PROFESSOR D. G. BRINTON. <i>Edridge-Green on Memory and its Cultivation</i> : PROFESSOR J. MCKEEN CATTELL.....	109
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia</i> : DR. EDW. J. NOLAN. <i>The Torrey Botanical Club</i> : EDWARD S. BURGESS.....	111
<i>New Books</i>	112

A book entitled 'Problems of Biology' has recently been issued from the press of Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., which is in many respects remarkable. Its author, Mr. George Sandeman, is evidently a metaphysician whose knowledge of biology is limited largely to theoretical writings. His style is peculiarly obscure and incoherent; *e. g.*, the following is the preface: "This volume contains the criticism of the contemporary biological systems. That enquiry is necessary as an introduction to the study of the problems of organic life, but it is not in itself a doctrine of biology. The argument ought to proceed to the discussion of the philosophy of nature." There is a flavor of dogmatism, pedantry and extravagance about the book, and often one does not know whether the author is in earnest or is perpetrating a huge satirical joke. But, in spite of all these imperfections and uncertainties, there are many keen and just criticisms of certain popular biological doctrines and methods.

The contents are divided into five chapters, the first of which is a far-going criticism of the Methods of Biology. There is, we are told, a remarkable anarchy within the science as well as a certain indefiniteness in its scope. "The inner confusion of biology depends upon the form of the science. The *necessary* form is a theory of individuality. The *professed* form is the