

American Year Book (The). Edited by F. G. Wickware. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$3.50.

We have already spoken of the exceeding usefulness of this work, and greet the new volume with interest and appreciation. To all newspaper workers and all students of public affairs the book is of substantial value. The year 1911 has been covered even more thoroughly than has been done before. The list of names of the contributors and supervisory board includes a large number of men who are in touch at first hand with the matters treated. The history of the year as regards social economy, finance, municipal government, National administration, National history, international relations, engineering, the arts, and many other topics, is complete and at the same time condensed.

Life and Love of the Insect (The). By J. H. Fabre. Adam and Charles Black, London.

The author of this book was long ago recognized abroad as not only a close and careful observer of nature, but as a charming popular writer on such subjects as that indicated by the title of this book. He has been called by Maeterlinck an "insects' Homer," "a profound and inventive scholar," and "a genuine poet." M. Fabre is now nearly ninety years of age, and his books have taken a recognized place as literature.

The present volume contains a selection from two or three hundred such essays. They deal in the most delightfully intimate way with the personal and family life of such insects as the sacred beetle and the scorpion, and the point of view is often as idealistic and poetical as that of Maeterlinck himself in his famous book on the bee. But with this is combined the closest observation. The essays are really notable for their readable quality as well as their clear description, and they have been excellently translated by Alexander T. de Mattos.

Three Wonderlands of the American West.
By Thomas D. Murphy. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.
\$3.

The three wonders here described are the Yellowstone Park, the Yosemite National Park, and the Grand Cañon of the Colorado River.

A striking feature of the book is the reproduction in color of sixteen of Thomas Moran's paintings, while the large size of the volume makes possible also the use of photographs which are really adequate. The narrative and descriptive text is worthy of commendation.

Book of Birds (The). By Augustus W. Bomberger. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia. \$1.

The multiplication of books on birds indicates the growing popular interest in this delightful branch of nature study. The present volume is well illustrated by photographs from nature taken by Mr. W. L. Baily. Bird photography is a very difficult branch of the art, and these pictures are in many ways unusual. The text is familiar, pleasant, and brings the reader into intimacy with bird family life.