

3-6. **Aves.** By O. Salvin and F. Ducane Godman. [Completed with the assistance of R. Bowdler Sharpe and Ogilvie Grant.] 4 vols., *pp.* xlv, 512, iv, 598, iv, 510, vii, *with 84 coloured plates* (1-79, 15a, 54a, 58a, 58b, 59a). **£20 net**

Three volumes are required for the enumeration and description of the 1413 species of Aves belonging to the Central American fauna, and a fourth for the 84 plates. Vol. I., published in 1879-1887, gives an account of a portion of the Passeres, the families Turdidæ to Alaudidæ; and, on the conclusion of the work, in 1904, an Introduction to the whole subject was issued, with Tables (*pp.* xi-xxxviii) showing the geographical distribution of the families and species represented in Mexico and Central America. Vol. II., published in 1888-1897, includes the continuation of the Passeres and the whole of the Macrochires, Pici, Coccoyges, and Psittaci. Vol. III., published in 1897-1904, includes the Striges, Accipitres, Steganopodes, Herodiones, Phœnicopteri, Anseres, Columbæ, Gallinæ, Geranomorphæ, Limicolæ, Gaviæ, Tubinares, Pygopodes, Alcæ, and Crypturi. Vol. IV. contains the whole of the plates and a complete list of the 149 species figured. Salvin's long continued ill health, and sudden death in 1898, retarded the conclusion of the third volume, and this was subsequently finished with the assistance of Dr. Sharpe and Mr. Ogilvie-Grant.

Nearly half (636) of the 1413 species enumerated are treated as endemic, fifteen of the families—Trochilidæ, Fringillidæ, Tanagridæ, Formicariidæ, Dendrocolaptidæ, Troglodytidæ, Turdidæ, Psittacidæ, Phasianidæ, Peristeridæ, Cotingidæ, Trogonidæ, Cracidæ, Tinamidæ, and Rhamphastidæ—having many peculiar forms. Compared with America north of Mexico, the fauna of the region here dealt with is particularly rich, the numbers being, North America (1895) 768 species as against Central America 1413; while India (with Ceylon and Burma), with nearly double the area, has (1898) only 1626 species. All, or nearly all, the new species were described first in the 'Ibis' or 'P. Z. S.' by Salvin.

In dealing with the Aves the limits of the region have been extended to include the Revillagigedo Islands on the Pacific side, on account of the numerous sea-birds inhabiting them; the Island of Old Providence on the Atlantic side, which has a humming-bird peculiar to it; and some places on the Isthmus of Darien.

The eighty-four plates illustrate 149 species.

7. **Reptilia and Batrachia.** By A. Günther. *Pp.* xx, 326, *with 64 plain, and 12 coloured plates.* **£5 net**

The author, in his Introduction published in 1902, summarizes his remarks on geographical distribution as follows:—The general features of the Reptilian and Amphibian faunas of the area under investigation have been satisfactorily ascertained. Forming the connecting link between the two Neogean regions, Central America