

possesses a Reptilian and Batrachian fauna with the various constituent elements so mixed that, if only certain families or genera were taken into consideration, almost every district of this area could be associated with either the North- or South-American region. The tropical fauna, as we proceed from lower to higher latitudes, gradually changes, or is replaced by that of the temperate region; but this change is not uniform throughout the breadth of the land, and the two faunas frequently overlap in deep and manifold indentations. Tropical types are found to preponderate in the low lands of the Atlantic side, which expand into the broad Yucatan peninsula, and on the humid slopes of moderate elevation; some extend to, and even reach northwards of, the Rio Grande. On the Western side they are found in similar localities, but in a narrower belt, along the Pacific coast. On the other hand, numerous types of the southern North American fauna are spread over Northern Mexico, extending along the Central American plateau to the extreme limits of our area, and even beyond. This southward extension of northern types is due partly to the identical physical conditions of the arid tableland of Sonora and Chihuahua, which is merely a continuation of that of Arizona and New Mexico, and partly to the great altitude and temperate climate of the Central American plateau. Thus, a boundary line between the North and South American regions cannot be drawn: Central America forms a transition-tract unlike any other part of the world, showing the most extraordinary diversity of climatic, physical, and meteoric conditions, within comparatively small areas, favouring the evolution of a great variety of types of genera and species, and influencing the dispersal of immigrants from the North and South.

The seventy-six plates illustrate 138 species.

8. **Pisces.** By C. T. Regan. *Pp.* xxxiii, 203, *with 2 maps and 26 plates.*
£2 10s net

The introductory remarks to this subject (published in 1908) are arranged by the author under five headings:—(1) Principal Faunal Works on the Fresh-water Fishes of Mexico and Central America; (2) Principal Collections described in this Work; (3) Classification; (4) Geographical Distribution, illustrated by two separate maps; (5) The Shore-Fishes of the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of Mexico and Central America. The geographical distribution is discussed at length under the headings to the separate families, ten of which are represented in the region, that of the Cichlidæ, Percidæ, Characinidæ, Catostominae, and Cyprininae being illustrated by shaded maps in the text. The author considers that the Nearctic and Neotropical regions are quite distinct, and to explain the distribution of fresh-water fishes he says that the volcanic chain of mountains which stretches across Mexico from Colima nearly to Vera Cruz may be taken as the boundary. The Nearctic region he divides into three subregions,