

touching the eastern portion of our region *en route*; others probably find their way down to the central tablelands, and a few western species, again, pass over the low lands of the Pacific coast.

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.

Birds, from their power of flight and the habit of migration common to a large number of them, are much more easily distributed than most other vertebrates, and, therefore, do not throw the same light on the subject of geographical distribution as in the case of more sedentary animals. This must, nevertheless, be applied in a general sense, for many of the species are extraordinarily local.

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 coloured plates illustrate 149 species.

## 7. REPTILIA and BATRACHIA: by Dr. A. Günther.

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 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,