



"THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE," by Gilbert White, is one of the classics of the English language which will never grow old so long as boys are boys and naturalists are more than literary mills; for it brings within the understanding of all accounts of the habits of animals, curious manifestations of instinct, gleams of intelligence in low forms of life, odd ways of birds, parental solicitude and unexpected traits never dreamed of. It is the ideal book of all amiable lovers of nature who in a quiet and leisurely way inform themselves of the habits and appearances of nature, and is a surety that however circumscribed our area of observation, its pleasures and interest are inexhaustible. White's little corner of the world was a remote parish in Hampshire, a mere atom of space, yet as he writes in one of his last letters, "It is now more than forty years that I have paid some attention to the ornithology of this district, without being able to exhaust it; new occurrences still arise as long as any enquiries are kept alive." The foundation of the spirit of Bolles, Torrey, Abbott, Thoreau, Burroughs and Jeffery were laid by the quiet student of Selborne, whose work has now rightly been included amongst the classics for children.

THE "Handbook of Arctic Discoveries," compiled by Brigadier-General A. W. Greely, represents more than 50,000 pages of original narratives from which the author has condensed all such material facts as may subserve the inquiries of the busy man, who often wishes to know the what, and when and where; and no important Arctic geographic addition to knowledge has been omitted. It is a "Handbook," and not a story of adventure. Mere narrative has been accounted of minimum weight, and compactness has, of course, necessitated a vigorous condensation, but this in no sense diminishes the value of the work as a handbook, as a glance through the index testifies. The bibliographical notes at the end of each chapter of the works upon which it is based are extremely valuable.

The "BOOK OF ATHLETICS AND OUT-OF-DOOR SPORTS," edited by Norman W. Bingham, Jr., will be welcomed by all who go in for athletics as authority. Its editor, Norman W. Bingham, Jr., who was captain of the Harvard Track Team of 1895, and manager of the Mott Haven Team, contributes to the book an introductory talk on the "Use and Abuse of Athletics," and one on "Running and Hurdling." Among the contributors to the volume are Arthur J. Cummock, Harvard's famous football captain, who gives "Advice to School Football Captains";

Yale's equally famous baseball captain, Lawrence T. Bliss, who tells "How to Handle a College Nine"; James Dwight, the lawn tennis expert and champion, and Ralph Cracknell, the phenomenal cricket-player, both of whom tell all about their especial game. Mayor Bancroft of Cambridge tells "How to Train a Crew"—and he has trained many. Hugh S. Hart, of the Xavier Athletic Association, talks about "golf." Kirk Munroe, who founded the League of American Wheelmen, tells about correct bicycling; E. B. Bloss, the champion Harvard jumper, discusses the "Running Broad Jump"; John Graham, of the Boston Athletic Association, tells about out-of-door gymnastics, and there is a paper by the celebrated Columbia College athlete and intercollegiate champion at the high hurdle, the late Herbert Mapes, on "Hurdling." Hare and hounds, the cane rush, skating, swimming, water sports., walking, yachting and other out-of-door sports and exercises find advocates of equal experience, and the book as a whole is unique in conception, practical in execution and broad in subjects and treatment.

"THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK," by Hiram Martin Chittenden. The wonders of the Yellowstone were made known to the world only twenty-five years ago. Since that time, no other region of like extent in our own country, probably not in the world, has attracted so much attention solely on account of its natural curiosities. It is annually visited by thousands of people from all civilized countries. The official reports, scientific publications, magazine articles and other writings relating to it are almost without number. Through constant reproduction, by means of photographs, its more remarkable features are familiar to the public. Although the literature of the Park is of great range and thoroughness, it is, unfortunately, widely scattered about, often difficult of access, and in no instance affords a complete presentation of the general subject. In one most interesting feature, that of the history of the Park, it is wholly deficient. To supply a work of ordinary bulk which shall satisfy the requirements indicated above is the object of the present volume. It undertakes, first and principally, to trace the history of the Yellowstone from the days of Lewis and Clark to the present time. As an indispensable aid to the reader, a condensed, though comprehensive, descriptive sketch has been prepared. Some attention is given to the question of the future preservation of the Park, and a large amount of valuable information is added by way of appendix.