

BLACKFRIARS

PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY. By G. Waddington, S.J., Ph.D., in collaboration with Monica Taylor, S.N.D., D.Sc. (John Murray; 5/-.)

On purely methodological grounds the student of biology, as of other natural sciences, abstracts from the phenomena of the universe his specific data of investigations, describing and explaining in the terms of his science the phenomena which come within his field. At the same time it would be an error to suppose that any science can be absolutely detached from its conceptions thereof. The part must be consistent with the whole. This point of view is implicit in the volume before us. *Principles of Biology* aims at providing for adolescent girls and boys an introduction to vital phenomena as manifested by various types of animal and plant organism, from the simplest form to the more highly developed.

The structure, habits of life, modes of reproduction of each type under consideration are set forth in such a way as to show their organic unity and purpose. The authors follow the beaten track, commencing with Amœba, and we meet once more our old friends the common earthworm, crayfish, frog and rabbit; these are however treated of in ways that are often new, and never dull. Amusing verses made up by the late Fr. C. Plater, S.J., on Amœba and other organisms are as humorous as they are technically accurate—his teacher saw to that. The text is accompanied throughout by appropriate illustrations and original photographs. In later chapters, the theory of evolution, Darwinism, Lamarckism, and other explanatory hypothesis are sincerely and critically dealt with. A list of questions for purposes of repetition and an adequate glossary of terms are an extremely useful feature of this excellent treatise.

In view of the fact that biology is likely to become an important if not obligatory subject of examination for the School Certificate or Matriculation, we earnestly recommend this volume to schools as well as to the general reader who may be interested in this fascinating subject, or desirous of reviving forgotten learning.

G. A. ELINGTON, O.P.

JOC AND COLETTE AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. By Vera Barclay. ENGLISH WILD ANIMALS. By J. Fairfax-Blakeborough. MAGIC IN THE WOODS. By Gareth H. Browning. (Nature and Science Series for Young People: Burns Oates; 3/6 each.)

Those delightful and utterly natural children, Joc, Colette and company, are already well known in this series; and those who have read Miss Barclay's earlier volumes will simply need to be told that this present book is at least equal to its predecessors. There is the same surprising wealth of valuable and sometimes