

BOOK NOTICES.

THE CAVE FAUNA OF NORTH AMERICA, with remarks on the Anatomy of the Brain and Origin of the Blind Species. By A. S. Packard, M. D. Vol. IV: First Memoir—National Academy of Sciences. 4 to., pp. 156.

The author of this admirable volume is everywhere known throughout the scientific world from his numerous works, especially on Entomology, and has obtained a deservedly high reputation in Europe as well as in America. This reputation will, we are confident, be, if possible, enhanced by the elaborate monograph before us. It contains many original observations of cave animals, some careful scientific investigations, and a very interesting chapter of philosophic considerations. It is also fully illustrated by a map of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, a number of wood cuts and a series of twenty-seven beautiful lithographs, nearly all of them drawn by the author himself. The work begins with a description of the Mammoth Cave and others in the neighbourhood, and gives lists of the various animals found within them; an account of the Wyandotte and other caves in Indiana, Clinton's Cave in Utah, and one in Colorado; a discussion of the geological age of the caves and their inhabitants, the mode of colonization and the source of their food-supply. The second chapter describes the vegetable life of the caves, which is naturally of the most meagre description. Then follows a systematic description and list of the invertebrate animals found in North American caves, among which spiders are the most numerous. Insects are represented by eight species of Thysanura, four of Orthoptera, two of Platyptera, ten of Coleoptera and nine of Diptera—a by no means extensive list, but one that includes some very curious and interesting forms. The beetles of the genus *Anophthalmus* are especially remarkable and attractive to the ordinary entomologist. Lists are also given of the European and North American cave animals, and of the blind, eyeless creatures which do not live in caves, and which, strange to say, almost equal in number their cavernous relatives. The next chapter gives a careful account of the anatomy of the brain and eyes (when partly developed) of certain blind Arthropods. The chief interest of the work culminates in the final chapter where the author discusses the origin of the cave species as bearing upon the theory of evolution. We have not space for any abstract of his views, which are well-deserving of study, but must refer the reader who desires fresh evidence on the subject of evolution to the work itself.