

from the pencil of the author himself, are excellent. The printing and general make up of the book are very noticeable. One great defect, however, exists:—there is no Index. Other defects, to the editor's mind, are that, in accordance with a prevailing fashion, the paragraphs are too widely leaved, the leaves are not cut and the paper is left uneven at the edges. Although many approve of these latter features, the first certainly breaks the continuity of the subject, and the second makes it difficult to turn the leaves easily for reference.

The very important role that the trade in Beaver-skins has played in the history of Canada is carefully worked out as well as the uses of the Beaver in manufactures. Of greatest interest to the naturalist is of course the life-history of this animal, in which its habits and methods of constructing its wonderful huts, dams and canals, are fully described and the many fabulous statements of travellers and hunters are discussed. The difference between the European Beaver and the Canadian species, first noticed by Cuvier, is pointed out, and the name *Canadensis* for the North American species, which was given to it by Kuhl in 1820, is claimed to be the correct designation.

In treating of allied animals of the same order, we are pleased to notice that Mr. Martin uses the name Musk Beaver, for *Fiber Zibethicus* instead of the more usual, but less accurate term Musk-rat.

The following titles of some of the chapters give some idea of the scope of this very interesting and instructive work:—Mythology and Folk-lore; The more important American Rodents; Life-history; Geographical Distribution; Engineering accomplishments; Importance in Trade and Commerce; Hunting the Beaver; The Beaver in Heraldry.

Under Experiments and Domestication, a full account is given of the Marquis of Bute's effort to establish a colony of Canadian Beavers near Rothesay in Scotland. The author paid a visit to the "enclosure" in July 1889 and made some interesting observations, which he records.

As appendices are given photo-copies of parts of original documents (1721-1726), Samuel Hearne's account of the Beaver, and a description by Dr. Riley of the remarkable beetle parasitic on the Beaver, *Platypyllus castoris*.

We have much pleasure in recommending this book to our readers.