

some specimens of obscure plant remains seen. Mr. Nichols pointed out a fault in the rock on the opposite side of the brook in view of the audience. The strata on the western side of the fault dips at a considerable angle and gradually becomes nearly horizontal at some distance away, while on the east side the layers are almost undisturbed. Attention was also called to the erosion of the clay beds and soft shale through which the small brook has cut a deep gully.

J. W. G.

#### BOOK REVIEW.

BIRDS OF NEW YORK, by Elon Howard Eaton: Part I, Introductory Chapters; Water Birds and Game Birds: New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y., Memoir 12.

This sumptuous volume of 390 pages, beautifully printed on the best of paper, has just recently appeared. It is in every way fully up to the high standard of the other excellent Memoirs of the New York State Museum, the authorities of which have done so much to stimulate research in natural history. The economic importance of a study of birds is now widely recognized. Much investigation into their feeding habits has proved beyond doubt that they are extremely important friends of the agriculturist, in fact, of the whole community at large.

At the present time it is stated that there are 411 species of birds which have been recorded as occurring in New York State. The species have been grouped into six classes, viz.: I. Residents, II. Summer residents, III. Transients, IV. Winter visitants, V. Summer visitants, VI. Accidental visitants. In an interesting chapter near the beginning much useful information is given on life zones, as well as charts to illustrate the distribution of the birds which breed in the three life zones of New York. In a chapter on "Increase and Decrease of Species," it is remarked that it is the general testimony of authors that there has been a marked diminution in the bird life of New York State during the past century. The reasons why this is so are clearly set forth and are only too well known. Modern agriculture is responsible for the death of many birds. Telephone and telegraph wires, electric lights, plate glass windows, cats and thoughtless boys, in cities and towns, all add to the danger to many species. "Perhaps the most destructive class are the thoughtless boys who go birds' egging and shooting indiscriminately; also foreigners, mostly Italians, who often kill all kinds of birds for food, as they have been accustomed to do in their native country; and the pot hunters and market gunners, who