

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

I Go A-Walking. Through the Woods. With Illustrations by
CHARLES REID. London: T. N. Foulis, 1907. 2s. 6d.

THIS book, which bears the above barbarous title, justifies its existence only through its illustrations, which are really beautiful. The text, which is merely a compilation of scraps from various second-rate writers, is puerile. W. P. P.

Nature in School.—No. 2. Edited by BORIS WEINBERG, Priv. Doc. St. Petersburg Univ. (Published by I. D. Sitin, Petrovka, Moscow.)

THE appearance of this monthly journal is an interesting sign of the great activity of late years among the Russians with regard to scientific pursuits. We are aware that capable and industrious observers have travelled in regions scarcely known by name, and undergone innumerable difficulties and hardships in order to enrich the annals of exploration and research. Since the days of the great Prjevalsky, for example, colleagues and followers have re-trodden his paths, opened up new ground, and published their records. But while some have worked in the desert and on the seas those at home have not been idle, as the numerous university and society transactions and proceedings abundantly testify. The journal before us is devoted to the encouragement of the study of physics, chemistry, and natural history in middle and elementary schools.

In the natural history section, Mr. N. M. Knipovitch, a well-known authority on marine conditions, continues his examination of the Caspian Sea basin. Referring to plankton, a subject hitherto little studied, his definition is worth reproducing:—

What is this plankton? A rain of corpses, incessantly falling from above in proportion to the death-rate among the animal and vegetable organisms inhabiting in abundance the upper strata of our basin. This rain of corpses does not present any peculiarity exclusively belonging to the Caspian Sea. In any considerable extent of salt and fresh water on the terrestrial sphere the same phenomenon occurs.

Among the Caspian plankton have been found *Chiridotea entomon* and *Cardium edule*, which belong to northern seas and lakes. Next Mr. Knipovitch discusses the herring-fisheries of the Volga and Caspian, and urges that care should be taken by fishing communities to avoid exhaustion and waste of the Volga sources of the important herring industry. Passing to geology, the author traces the changes which have taken place since the Sarmatian Sea extended from the foot of the Alps to Tian-shan, and concludes: "the Caspian Sea may be considered an example of a basin with anomalous physico-geographical and biological conditions." Mr. V. Polovtsov deals with



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