

REVIEW.

British Birds. Written and illustrated by Archibald Thorburn.

Vols. III. and IV., 8vo (Longmans, Green). 16s. net per vol.

MR. THORBURN has now completed his task of giving us an octavo edition with 192 coloured plates from entirely new pictures of his *British Birds*. Mr. Thorburn's plates are certainly beautiful and the colours have on the whole been very well reproduced in these volumes, though some of the browns (especially in Volume IV.) have suffered somewhat here and there in this respect. Most of the birds are represented in their adult and brightest plumage, and as a series of pictures of our birds in such plumage Mr. Thorburn's volumes cannot be excelled. Only occasionally, however, do we have the duller young or winter plumages depicted, though such birds are so much more difficult to identify. Moreover, some of the rarer species figured here in adult breeding dress are seldom seen thus in this country, for instance, Sabine's Gull or the rarer Grebes. Amongst the waders, Mr. Thorburn has been much more generous with figures of birds in winter plumage.

The letterpress does not pretend to be complete in any way, and it would be unfair to criticize it in detail. Mr. Thorburn sticks to an old-fashioned nomenclature and many of the scientific names he uses will be scarcely recognized by the younger generation of ornithologists.

Attention may be drawn to the large paper edition of this work. In this edition, which is limited to 205 numbered copies, the plates are mounted on thick paper of a neutral brown. The lettering is printed on a covering tissue paper and the plates are well set off with their generous margins of brown, the size of the page being much larger octavo than in the ordinary edition. The volumes are well and strongly bound.