The knowledge of nature and of animals and the possession of a charming style, has collected another series of papers on "birds and beasts and flowers" and out-of-door life generally in Summer Days for Winter Evenings (Macmillan). By the fireside on a bleak evening, when the wind whirs about the snowflakes, it is delightful sometimes to look forward to the days when there will be "light again, leaf again, love again," as Tennyson made the throstle sing. With Mr. Crawford's delightful sketches, sometimes telling alone of nature's aspects, sometimes with a thread of story to lend a touch of human interest, a reader must have little imagination if he does not easily forget the tempest that beats against the casement and fancy himself between green earth and blue sky watching the kaleidoscope of the seasons and changes of the year and the ways of the furred and feathered creatures which are so sympathetically described.—The principle upon which the Yellow Book (John Lane) is edited would seem to be that at intervals of every three months a section of the reading public is seized with a craving for fresh work by Mr. Henry Harland, Miss Ellis D'Aro, and others of the little school of writers whom the Bodley Head has brought into notice. The contributions, therefore, tend to run fairly in the same groove, but still, as the present is the twelfth issue, one must perhaps admit, mindful of the fate of the "Savoy," that the principle serves its purpose well enough. Both the writers named have contributed stories rather above their usual mark, Mr. Harland's being marred only by a quite unnecessarily unpleasant finish. Mr. William Watson has a poem which both in metre and in matter is somewhat suggestive of Matthew Arnold; Mr. Henry James discusses once more the oft-discussed relations between De Musset and George Sand; Mr. Le Gallienne sends a couple of prose fancies, while contributions from Dr. Garnett and Mr. F. A. Swettenham and short poems by Mr. Stephen Phillips and Mr. Kenneth Graham make up a number that well sustains the average of interest. Of the drawings, it is impossible to speak with any enthusiasm.—It is a secret de Poucisselte that "B. B." and "H. B.," the authors of the Bad Child's Book of Beasts (Simpkin Marshall; and Alden, Oxford), which has been successful enough to justify a second edition, are Lord Basil Blackwood and Mr. Hilaire Belloc, recent president of the Oxford Union. The drawings by the former are genuinely amusing examples of the grotesque treatment of animals, and Mr. Belloc's verses suit them happily enough. The book has the merit of really appealing to children, and not only to "children of a larger growth"—a merit that nonsense books by clever people too often lack.

Court of Common Council.—A meeting of the Council of Common Council was held at the Guildhall yesterday under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. Mr. Deputy Mayor moved a resolution expressing the sorrow which the Council felt at the death of Major Joseph, for many years one of its members. Mr. Alderman Vaughan Morgan seconded the resolution. The Lord Mayor said he had known Major Joseph all his life, and had great esteem and regard for him. The resolution was agreed to.