

Our Bookshelf.

Capita Zoologica. Verhandelingen op Systematisch-Zoologisch Gebied. Onder Redactie van Prof. Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Deel I, Aflevering 1, *Nouvelles Recherches sur les Nématodes libres terricoles de la Hollande.* Par Dr. J. G. De Man. Pp. 62+14 plates. 10 guilders. Deel I, Aflevering 2, *Studien über Rhizostomeen mit Besonderer Berücksichtigung der Fauna des Malaiischen Archipels nebst einer Revision des Systems.* Von Dr. Gustav Stiasny. Pp. viii+176+5 plates. ('s Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff, 1921.) 16 guilders.

In these days of drastic economy it is becoming ever more difficult to find means for the publication of scientific work, especially when it has little or no direct bearing upon utilitarian problems. The systematic zoologist in particular has to content himself as a rule with as little as possible in the way of paper, letterpress, and illustrations, and it will probably be a long time before we see again in this country a series of zoological monographs comparable with that which embodies the results of the *Challenger* Expedition. Other countries, however, appear to be somewhat less embarrassed as to ways and means, and we are glad to welcome the appearance of a new Dutch periodical entitled *Capita Zoologica*, under the editorship of Prof. Dr. E. D. van Oort, Director of the State Museum of Natural History at Leiden. This publication will consist of a series of large quarto memoirs on systematic zoology, which will be issued separately as complete works as occasion requires. The first two are already published, dealing respectively with the free-living Terricolous Nematodes of Holland, by Dr. J. G. De Man, and with the Rhizostomatous Medusæ, by Dr. Gustav Stiasny. Both memoirs are fairly copiously, though by no means extravagantly, illustrated, and they form solid and valuable contributions to our knowledge of the groups with which they deal.

A. D.

Benzol: Its Recovery, Rectification, and Uses. By S. E. Whitehead. With an Introductory Note by the Rt. Hon. Lord Moulton. (The *Gas World* Series.) Pp. xiv+209. (London: Benn Brothers, Ltd., 1920.) Price 12s. 6d. net.

DURING the war the gas industry received a great impetus from the increasing demand for benzol and toluol for military requirements, and methods of recovery and production were adopted on a scale which was little appreciated at the time. One result of this was to pave the way for the foundation of a far greater benzol industry in this country than was previously existent, and the present volume has been written as a guide to the principles and practices engendered.

The text is most thorough, and while essentially practical, it does not ignore theoretical criteria cognate to the technicalities of the subject. The book is built up of exhaustive discussions of the recovery of benzol from gas, its rectification, and the uses to which it and the derivative products may be put. Probably the most interesting sections are those dealing with dyes, explosives, and the use of benzol as a motor fuel, which, although in the former connections modestly regarded by the author as summaries, are none the less useful

and comprehensive. It is obviously important that, in view of this country's dependence on foreign resources of petroleum as a motor fuel, every effort should be made to ease the position by the establishment of a vast benzol industry, and in this effort the utmost encouragement should be given to those engaged in coal-gas production; the present volume is a valuable contribution to this end, and both for educational and technical purposes merits a wide circulation. H. B. MILNER.

The Analysis of Mind. By Bertrand Russell. (Library of Philosophy.) Pp. 310. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.; New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921.) 16s. net.

THE title of Mr. Russell's book may raise expectations that it is an exposition or development of his philosophical theory. It cannot, however, take rank with his great works. It is a course of lectures, to all appearance a verbatim report, which has been subjected to the very minimum of revision. It is brimming over with casual witty remarks which pass well with an audience, but will not bear reflection. The lectures show Mr. Russell under the influence of two comparatively recent popular movements in philosophy and psychology, both of which seem to have attracted him powerfully, and neither to have convinced him completely, namely, William James's Neutral Monism and Prof. J. B. Watson's Behaviourism. One lecture deals at some length with the question, "Does Consciousness exist?" The answer reminds one of the famous pronouncement that Shakespeare's plays were not written by Shakespeare but by some one else of the same name. It is easy enough to argue that consciousness does not exist, but then there is something we are talking about when we affirm its non-existence, and it is difficult to find any other name for it. In regard to Behaviourism Mr. Russell thinks it a beautiful theory and an ideal method, but then—there are images, and the theory cannot account for them.

(1) *Aspects of Plant Life, with Special Reference to the British Flora.* By R. L. Praeger. (Nature Lover's Series.) Pp. 208. (London: S.P.C.K.; New York: The Macmillan Company, 1921.) 6s. net.

(2) *Mountain and Moorland.* By Prof. J. A. Thomson. (Nature Lover's Series.) Pp. 176. (London: S.P.C.K., 1921.) 6s. net.

THERE are many educated persons who are conscious that they miss much of the beauty and interest of the world around them through lack of knowledge and of the seeing eye that knowledge alone can give. To all such these two small volumes published by the S.P.C.K. will prove most acceptable. In an easy and non-technical fashion (1) Prof. Praeger sets forth the conditions under which various types of flowering plants exist, the problems by which they are confronted, and the devices by which they triumph. He brings forcibly to mind the deep philosophical nature of the questions that may be raised by the occurrence on hill or in valley of even the humblest plant.

(2) Prof. Arthur Thomson's book is a delightful companion for any one who wishes to enjoy intelligently a holiday among our moors and mountains. It touches in a stimulating and suggestive way on almost every branch of natural history in these favourite districts, and opens out numerous fields of research for the reader.