

still Greek. Our own 'trout' may be a Greek name misapplied (p. 271). A dozen or more of names in this "Glossary" are printed in roman characters, being only preserved in Latin authors, though certainly known to the Greeks. It is interesting to note how many names defy derivation, and may well be pre-Hellenic; others seem to be borrowed from Egyptian. Almost none are from Phoenician, and the same applies to Greek shipping vocabulary; a devastating commentary on the old myth of Phoenician influence on Greek culture.

How fully the author has covered the field is evident from his 'addenda' (p. 297)—only three items. He has inevitably included much besides 'fishes' in the strict sense; for many molluscs and other *frutta di mare* shared the same names, or were otherwise connected with fisheries; lobsters, crabs, octopus and squid, oysters, and 'purple-shells' are examples. There were also observations of fossil fishes and molluscs, and geological inferences, undeterred by Archbishop Usher. The picturesque accounts of fishes' characters and mode of life are not so fanciful as they seem; some are confirmed by modern observers. The female *scarus* may not insert its tail in a fish trap to enable its mate to escape; but the writer of these lines has seen the decoy fish in its bucket ready to be paraded along the rocky refuge of the *scarus*-shoal. Many fishes, too, make noises, if not calls, and perform extraordinary feats of agility, and of endurance on land. In this mass of minute detail there are almost no misprints: p. 191, *aestate* for *acetate*; p. 205, $\pi\eta\gamma\alpha\nu\nu$ for $\delta\eta\gamma\alpha\nu\nu$; p. 239, *weel* perhaps for *creel*.

The picture of the tunny-seller on a Campanian vase (frontispiece) exactly confirms the dissection of the tunny described on p. 88. There are many line drawings, from Yarrell and other standard works, and from Egyptian frescoes.

May the author long enjoy the grateful appreciation of fish-lovers and etymologists. J. L. MYRES

THE RACE FOR OIL

American Oil Operations Abroad

By Leonard M. Fanning. Pp. ix+270+93 plates. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1947.) 20s.

"It is even probable that the supremacy of nations may be determined by the possession of available petroleum and its products." This quotation, from President Coolidge, appeared on the title-page of a book by Ludwell Denny published in the United States in 1928 under the challenge "We Fight for Oil". This caused a sensation at the time, largely because it developed in no uncertain, often hostile, terms the theme of Anglo-American rivalry ('oil war' that author called it) in a race to secure the world's major oil resources outside the United States. Much has happened since this supposed 'menace' to world peace was so bitterly proclaimed, and those who remember the stir caused at the time by this strongly anti-British thesis will read with considerable interest another American's survey of how that fight has been carried on since the end of the First World War up to the present time.

"American Oil Operations Abroad" again has for its purpose the "most vital issue before the world and the American nation to-day—the international oil situation"; but the story is told, on the whole,

with more carefully balanced facts and less Anglo-phobia than pervaded the earlier volume mentioned.

To appreciate fully the purpose of this book, one must try to read it wholly through American eyes. The atmosphere created by the author, probably intentionally, is one of 'look what we have done in the teeth of unmitigated opposition'. Implicit in this is the underlying theme that 'nobody else could have done anything like so much and so well'. Accept this for the moment as the reviewer's over-statement and see where it leads. The record is impressive.

The United States must look abroad for oil, partly in fear of declining home resources, mainly to expand foreign business and to acquire political, military and defensive advantages as widely spread over the world as possible. But oil only occurs in restricted regions, many of these in countries where wide open spaces prevail and standards of civilization are, to say the least, scarcely those of the western hemisphere. Once foreign oil invasion starts, political risks are taken by all nationals concerned. Even expropriation and seizure of oil properties by governments within the domain of which foreign operations are in full swing must be faced. Economic risks revolve mainly around the time-lag between prospecting operations and actual oil production: millions of dollars are involved in this phase alone. Struggle for a share of the world's oil centres mainly in the Caribbean countries and Middle East: it still goes on. Participation in foreign oil markets is part of an international trading treaty worked out by the United States and Great Britain, but so far not ratified. Aside from these aspects, however, are enormous economic, social and educational advantages to foreign nationals when successful enterprise opens up their countries' storehouses of oil. These are the main considerations of this book. Its perusal leaves one with confirmed feeling that the international oil war is indeed on, with yet one more protagonist in the field than Denny counted upon.

In much the author writes, there will be wide understanding by British petroleum technologists and economists. But perhaps the real picture of the situation will remain blurred until someone writes a counterpart volume on what British oil interests have done abroad, over a longer period of time than American interests, with at least all the same hazards faced and overcome, and with far less experience of an indigenous oil industry to work on than our more fortunately placed friends overseas.

H. B. MILNER

"WHEN THE PIE WAS OPENED"

Mathematische Werke

Von Johann Heinrich Lambert. Band 1: Arithmetik, Algebra und Analysis, 1. Herausgegeben von Andreas Speiser. Pp. xxxi+358. (Zürich: Orell Füssli, 1946.) 25 Swiss francs.

VERSATILITY is the most delusive of the fairy gifts; the men of genius on whom it was bestowed otherwise than in subtle malevolence can be counted on the fingers. In the age of Euler himself, Johann Heinrich Lambert shone by his own light, not as a reflexion of the great luminary, and had he consented to be only a mathematician, the course of mathematical history would have been different. But condemned by the humiliations of his early life to demand intellectual submission from everyone he met, Lambert could not bear the thought that there