

Foraminifera

Their Classification and Economic Use. By Joseph A. Cushman. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged, with an Illustrated Key to the Genera. Pp. viii+605 (86 plates). (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1948.) 55s. net.

A LEGACY to science of more than five hundred works on the Foraminifera has been left by the late Dr. J. A. Cushman, and, of these, there is little doubt that "Foraminifera: their Classification and Economic Use" (fourth edition) is of most general value both to the student, the research worker and the petroleum micropalaeontologist. Each edition, as it appeared, was regarded as the main standby of modern knowledge of the genera of Foraminifera, and, although Cushman's division of them into families and natural groups is not necessarily acceptable to all, at least he has adhered to a constant main grouping throughout successive editions and, indeed, in all his works.

About 750 genera are defined and figured in the new edition and many recently described have been incorporated. It is good to see among his inclusions the genus *Fabiana* Silvestri, which was originally described as an Eocene coral. It is a pity that *Nummulostegina*, a Carboniferous genus, should have been defined and figured twice: once under the Fusulinidæ—the contribution on this family being made by Dr. Carl O. Dunbar—and again under the Camerinidæ [=Nummulitidæ]. Dr. Cushman and Dr. Dunbar would have done well to have conferred on this matter.

Many points of taxonomic interest could be debated; but it is easier to criticize than to construct, and in all fairness it is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Cushman's book is the most comprehensive, up-to-date text-book on the Foraminifera, and it marks the climax of the author's distinguished career.

C. D. OVEY

Wildfowling

By James Andrews, T. Clifford Bland, Robert Blockley, Robin Farmiloe, Robin Harrison, John Inge, Christopher Lee-Elliott, Alastair McArthur, Douglas Service and Michael Shephard. (Lonsdale Library of Sports, Games and Pastimes, Vol. 29.) Pp. 352+49 plates. (London: Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 25s. net.

VOLUME twenty-nine of the Lonsdale Library is devoted to "Wildfowling", a team of ten writers having collaborated to produce it, each dealing with a section of which he has special knowledge. For example, Robert Blockley writes of geese, ducks, waders and so on, in short, the birds commonly spoken of as waterfowl, from the ornithological point of view, giving a brief description of the appearance, distribution, habitat, habits and food of each species; while T. Clifford Bland deals with shoulder guns and punt guns. Then Christopher Lee-Elliott gives us a note on the legal aspect of wildfowling; and John Inge writes at length on the practice of the sport, giving the beginner and those who are not beginners alike much useful information and helpful advice. There are also chapters on punts and punting by Douglas Service, Michael Shephard following with five chapters on "Inland Marsh Shooting". We then come to chapters on "Decoy Ponds" by Robin Farmiloe; on "Wildfowling on a Norfolk Estuary" by Robin Harrison; the "Hawking of Wildfowl" by Alastair McArthur; and lastly one on "First Aid and

Shooting Accidents" by James Andrews. A glossary of wildfowl terms and a comprehensive index wind up the volume.

Where so much pains have been taken, where so wide a field has been covered and so much helpful information supplied, it seems a pity a little time was not devoted to the revision of details, for example, in the glossary we read "marram grass: see *Zostera marina*"! And surely the term "eyass" is and was used by falconers to denote a young hawk and not merely "fledglings captured by the setting of a snare"?

FRANCES PITT

Britain's Beasts of Prey

By W. Kay Robinson. Pp. 128. (London: Latimer House, Ltd., 1949.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS very readable book relates many little-known facts about British mammals that are threatened with extinction, together with claims for and against hunting them. The author quotes many fascinating stories about those disappearing species, the wild cat, pine marten and polecat, written in the pleasantly informative style with which followers of his very popular newspaper articles are familiar. He presents a strong argument in favour of that much-persecuted animal, the otter, proving that on streams where it is protected the fishing is improved, and condemning the senseless killing of one of the most useful wild animals in Great Britain.

OLIVER G. PIKE

Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie

Achte völlig neu bearbeitete Auflage. System-Nummer 10: Selen. Teil B: Die Verbindungen des Selen. Pp. xxi+vii+195. (Clausthal-Zellerfeld: Gmelin-Verlag G.m.b.H., 1949.) n.p.

THE reappearance of this famous work is a welcome event. No other book can be compared with it in its field, and the standard of the new parts is as high as that of previous volumes. This particular part deals with the compounds of selenium with hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, halogens and sulphur. By reason of the scheme of arrangement, selenites and selenates must be looked for in other volumes dealing with the metals. The mode of treatment takes full account of the physics and physical chemistry of the substances. The copy sent for review was much disfigured by excessive rubber-stamping.

J. R. P.

Ions, Electrons and Ionizing Radiations

By Prof. James Arnold Crowther. Eighth edition. Pp. ix+322+7 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1949.) 21s. net.

SINCE 1919, when it first appeared, this book has served many generations of students as an introduction to the major treatises on atomic physics. The earlier editions were noteworthy for the emphasis given to the pioneer work of Rutherford, Thomson, Townsend, and the others who laid the foundations of the subject; and this invaluable feature has not been sacrificed in the eighth edition, which carries the account of the main lines of progress up to the present time. The problem of selection for each successive edition must have become more and more difficult as the subject developed. It is sad to relate that, by the recent death of Prof. J. A. Crowther (see *Nature*, May 13, p. 250), this edition marks the last to be revised at his hands, for in it the author's judgment has been as happily exercised as ever.

G. R. NOAKES