

The Freshwater Life of the British Isles

A Guide to the Plants and Invertebrates of Ponds, Lakes, Streams and Rivers, with an additional chapter on the Vertebrates. By John Clegg. Second edition. (Wayside and Woodland Series.) Pp. 352 + 67 plates. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1959.) 21s. net.

THIS popular book, first published in 1952, deals in broad outline with the basic information necessary to an understanding of limnology; it has proved its worth as an elementary text for teachers and students and, in particular, for those attending courses at the field study centres.

This new edition has given Mr. Clegg the opportunity to eliminate some errors which had crept into the first edition and to include some new results that had become available since 1952. Some colour plates by Mr. Ernest C. Mansell are noteworthy additions, those on Mollusca being particularly good. The opportunity might also have been taken to provide more satisfactory colour photographs both of the natterjack toad and of the common toad.

Although a great many animals and plants can be identified with the aid of this book, there are no keys, and it is not primarily concerned with identification down to species. Illustrated extended keys (of too recent date to have been included in the revised bibliography) are now available and can be used in conjunction with this volume, but they do not pretend to provide a comprehensive, well-balanced introduction to limnology such as the beginner will find in Mr. Clegg's book.

W. J. REES

The Future of Non-Ferrous Mining in Great Britain and Ireland

(Proceedings of a Symposium arranged by the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in collaboration with the United Kingdom Metal Mining Association, held on 23rd and 24th September, 1958, at the Federation of British Industries, London.) Pp. xxxvi + 614. (London: The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 1959.) 60s.

THE main scientific results of the symposium organized jointly by the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the United Kingdom Metal Mining Association have already been reported briefly in *Nature* (Oct. 25, 1958, p. 1136). Publication of the Proceedings, delayed by the printers' strike, has now been achieved. The single volume contains the text of the fourth Sir Julius Wernher Lecture, delivered as a prelude to the symposium by Mr. Anton Grey. This is followed by thirty-two original papers, most of which had been issued as pre-prints to members, together with verbatim reports of the discussions at the two days of meetings. Sixteen of the papers are devoted to descriptions of the tin, copper, lead, zinc, fluorine and barium deposits of the British Islands, the most comprehensive review of the epigenetic mineral deposits of Britain so far assembled in a single volume. History, geology, production and potential are dealt with in each of these papers. Most of the ore-fields have been described before, some of them in some detail, as for example in the Geological Survey Memoirs of the Northern Pennine Ore-field (1948) and South-Western England (1956), some only in a general fashion. The present publication gives an up-to-date picture of an industry which is now no more than a shadow of its former self. The purpose of the symposium was to consider whether resources of the non-ferrous minerals remain

in the British Isles after more than 2,000 years of exploitation; whether these are worth finding, and if so how they can be located. With these points in view, the other papers and discussions were devoted to modern techniques for prospecting—geophysical, geochemical, radiometrical—and to considerations of economics and ownership. If the conclusions can be summed up in a single phrase, they are that deposits as yet undiscovered may be expected to remain: that in all but a few cases the search for these would be so speculative as to need some form of State support; and that when they are found the value of the deposits against the current economic background cannot be said to be assured.

K. C. DUNHAM

Infant Mortality in India, 1901–55

A Matter of Life and Death. By Prof. S. Chandrasekhar. Pp. 175. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1959.) 20s. net.

IN writing this book Prof. Chandrasekhar essays the difficult task of being three persons at once. As director of the Indian Institute for Population Studies he makes clear the inadequacy of available statistics. Though the wealth of material in the decennial censuses of India since 1881 is well known, essential basic data such as total number of births, or total number lost under one year, are not available. In the second place the author, as a distinguished social scientist, has little difficulty in showing how unfavourably India compares with so many other countries. Though the infant mortality-rate is shown as having dropped from 215 per 1,000 live births in 1901–05, to 116 in 1951, the latter figure is compared with such examples as 29 in the United States or 27 in England and Wales. In fairness it is noted that infant mortality is still believed to average 300–500 per 1,000 live births over most of Africa. In the third part of the book the author, as social reformer, claims that the nation's children are too precious to be wasted by premature death, that the nation's efforts should be directed to the ideal of reducing the present infant mortality-rate to something like 20 per 1,000 live births. Family planning with a limitation to, "say, three under normal circumstances spaced, say, three years apart," is mentioned incidentally rather than made a focal point.

L. DUDLEY STAMP

Second Conference on Co-ordination of Galactic Research

Edited by A. Blaauw, G. Larsson-Leander, N. G. Roman, A. Sandage, H. F. Weaver and A. D. Thackeray. (International Astronomical Union Symposium No. 7, held at Saltsjöbaden, near Stockholm, June 1957.) Pp. viii + 93. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1959.) 15s. net.

THE first conference on the co-ordination of galactic research was held in 1953 and its report appeared as International Astronomical Union Symposium No. 1; it was devoted to a broad survey of the problems of galactic structure. The second conference was devoted to more detailed problems of particular importance at this time: clusters and associations, the Galaxy as a whole, and the Magellanic Clouds. A good account is given of many aspects of current work as well as discussions of the possibilities for future investigations. Emphasis is laid on the importance of adequate standardization of the photometric systems used by different observers.