

Dr. Coulter's work is richly and excellently illustrated, a number of the illustrations being original. For this reason, and, further, because the author touches on questions elsewhere treated only in much larger works, the book may be found useful to such students as can employ it, as Dr. Coulter intends, merely to supplement the theoretical and practical instruction of a competent teacher.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

*B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen des Tier- und Pflanzenreiches. Naturgeschichte der mikroskopischen Süßwasserbewohner. Dritte, vollständig neubearbeitete und vermehrte Auflage. Von Dr. Walther Schönichen und Dr. Alfred Kalberlah. Pp. 700. Taf. 16. (Brunswick: Benno Goeritz, 1900.)*

THIS new edition of Eyferth's work will no doubt be of great use to students of microscopical forms of both vegetable and animal life. It includes representatives of most of the European families and genera of minute plants and animals, and there are sixteen excellent photographic plates giving typical illustrations of the genera. The nomenclature adopted for the botanical sections is that of Engler and Prantl in their "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien," and the authors state that all recent additions to this branch of scientific literature have been taken into consideration, more especially with regard to results and conclusions arrived at by special workers at the various groups. The species enumerated, and to which are appended short descriptions, are stated to be representative ones about which there is no uncertainty of determination; but in the family Desmidiaceæ the species included are by no means representative, many of the very commonest ones being left out in preference for others which are uncommonly rare and hardly likely to be observed by the ordinary student of microscopical forms of life, for which person the book is undoubtedly written. One also wonders at the inclusion of Naegeli's genus *Oocardium* amongst the Desmids, and the presence of such useless genera as *Holocanthum*, *Schizocanthum*, *Pleurotaeniosis* and *Pleurenterium*, which are introduced directly from Engler and Prantl. A most typical genus of the blue green algae—*Gloeochaete*—is placed in the Rhodophyceæ, and so is *Porphyridium*, which has most claim to be regarded as a reddish form of a blue-green, *Aphanocapsa*-like alga. The animal sections are given rather more completely than the vegetable, but the nomenclature of the Sarcodina seems to be considerably erroneous. The systematic position of *Hydrurus foetidus* amongst the Protozoa is truly remarkable.

G. S. WEST.

*Handbook of British, Continental and Canadian Universities, with special mention of the Courses open to Women. Supplement for 1901. Compiled for the Graduate Club of Bryn Mawr College by Isabel Maddison, B.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. 70. (Pennsylvania: Bryn Mawr College, 1901.)*

THIS is a supplement to a handbook published in 1896 to show the courses open to women in universities. As practically all European universities and colleges are now open to women, the original title was modified when a new edition was called for in 1899, and the book has become a short guide showing for the benefit of men as well as women the university systems, requirements, &c., of various countries. The present supplement contains corrigenda and addenda, bringing the handbook up to date as regards the lists of professors, lectures and the constitutional changes. Though the book is not to be compared with the *Minerva Jahrbuch* in point of value for reference, it may be of service to educationists interested in the facilities for the higher education of women.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

#### The Subjective Lowering of Pitch.

MR. SHERWOOD (p. 233) seems to have misunderstood my meaning. I did not intend to imply that a singer should be conscious of his own flatness (*i.e.* if loudness causes subjective lowering of pitch), but that his voice, being relatively loud to himself, should sound to him flatter than it really is; and that he would try to counteract the impression by singing sharp. This is the reverse of experience. A singer having a good ear for external music, but singing flat, evidently hears his own voice sharper than it really is. Such a singer keeps his voice up better in a chorus, or when the accompaniment is loud enough to produce a subjective impression as strong as that of his own voice.

Malvern, July 14.

F. J. ALLEN.

#### Phototherapy.

AS stated in NATURE, July 11, p. 259, Prof. Finsen of Copenhagen proposed, in 1893, that patients suffering from small-pox should be kept in rooms from which the chemical rays of light are excluded by means of red curtains or red glass. He was anticipated in this treatment by John Gaddesden, who wrote the famous medical treatise "*Rosa Medicinæ*," and died A.D. 1361. He cured a son of King Edward I. of small-pox by wrapping him in scarlet cloth in a bed and room with scarlet hangings. He says of the result, "*est bona cura; et curavi eum in sequenti sine vestigio variolarum*," "*Dict. of Nat. Biogr.*," and "*Biographie Générale*." M. H. CLOSE.

#### THE CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

FOR some time past most elaborate preparations have been made for this Congress, and latterly it was feared that, owing to the postponement that was necessary on account of the death of Queen Victoria, the attendance, especially of workers from abroad, might be seriously affected. Fortunately, this anticipation has not been realised, and from the list of delegates and the number and importance of the papers promised there appears to be every prospect of a most successful and useful series of meetings.

If the work of the Congress was to be of an educational nature, it could scarcely be hoped that much time could be devoted to new work; and that it would be educational in the best sense of the word soon became evident. Certainly few congresses have succeeded in arousing such interest in matters affecting the health and general welfare of the community.

From the King, who gave his patronage, to the numerous municipal representatives and delegates of learned and philanthropic societies all classes seem to be represented; and that the interest aroused is not merely on paper is evident from the list of those who were present at the opening meeting on Tuesday. The Duke of Cambridge presided at the command of the King, and was supported by the American Ambassador and other Ministers and Ambassadors, the Duke of Northumberland, Earls Derby, Cawdor, Spencer and Cadogan, Lord Lister, the Lord Mayor and a whole host of distinguished scientific men. The Colonies were well represented by Lord Strathcona, Sir Andrew Clarke, Sir Walter Peace and others, whilst the Foreign delegates numbered between two and three hundred. The work of bringing a goodly company together had evidently been in competent hands. Will the work of the Congress be equally good? So far this question may be answered in the affirmative; and should the rest of the meetings be as successful as those of the first and second days, the Congress will have thoroughly justified its existence.