

ought to have a ready sale on this side of the Channel, because the marine and estuarine animals it describes and illustrates are those with which all shore collectors and amateur fishermen are familiar. To these the book may be recommended without reserve.

(3) The gift of writing science for children is much rarer than is usually supposed. If it can be acquired, Mr. Ellison Hawks has much to learn in the use and disuse of words and in the handling of subject matter before he can hope to qualify for a place in the small band of authors endowed with the gift. Apart from this defect and a few of less moment, his book on bees is quite good in its way, and holds all about the structure, habits, and practical keeping of honey-bees that the ordinary layman is likely to want.

Not without misgivings on the score of the probable suppression or transference of long-cherished and familiar names did we look through the new "Hand-list of British Birds," by Messrs. Hartert, Jourdain, Ticehurst and Witherby (4). That our fears were justified in a measure is shown by the appearance of some strange, often uncouth, terms, like *borin* for *hortensis* for the garden warbler, by the transference of *musicus* from the song thrush to the redwing, and by a most disconcerting shuffling of the names of our owls. The barn owl, for example, so familiar as *Strix flammea*, is now *Tyto alba*, its generic name *Strix* going to the tawny owl and its specific name *flammea* to the short-eared owl! We are forced to admit, however, that until systematic zoologists agree on the question of exempting certain names from the law of priority, conscientious compilers of catalogues are compelled to put it in force. On the other hand, we welcome the suppression of many generic names, and rejoice that the blackbird is still a *Turdus*, that the rook finds a place in *Corvus*, and that the kestrel, gyrfalcon and merlin are associated with the peregrine under *Falco*. The volume, which deals with distribution and migration as well as with names, is useful and carefully compiled, and will have to be seriously reckoned with by all writers on British birds, despite the protests to which its nomenclature is sure to give rise.

(5) In Mr. Dakin's memoir on the whelk (*Buccinum*) zoological students will find an admirable and well-illustrated treatise on the anatomy of this common gastropod, supplemented by brief accounts of its embryology, distribution and economics.

(6) Like all the volumes of "Das Tierreich" which deal with obscure groups, Dr. Müller's monograph of the Ostracoda is a colossal piece of work. More than nine hundred species of these

minute Entomostraca are tabulated and classified. It will give a fresh impulse to the study of the group, but cannot be regarded as final, since something like six hundred named species have to be set aside, through no fault of the author, as *dubiae*. What a benefit it would be to the study of such orders as this if specialists would abandon for a time the description of new species and seriously address themselves to the task of classifying properly those that have already been described!

R. I. P.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

Biologische und morphologische Untersuchungen über Wasser- und Sumpfgewächse. By Prof. H. Glück. Dritter Teil:—Die Uferflora. Pp. xxxiv+644+viii plates. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1911.) Price 33 marks.

PROF. GLÜCK has produced a portentous volume on the riparian flora, forming the third instalment of his work on water and swamp plants. Frankly, we do not find justification for the 600 or more pages of his book, and we fancy most readers who have been in the habit of using their eyes when observing or collecting plants will find but little to reward them for the trouble of its perusal.

There are many examples, often of very moderate interest, adduced to illustrate the fact that submerged forms are apt to differ from the terrestrial representatives of a given species. Here and there, however, interesting observations are recorded, e.g., the very different water and land forms of *Veronica Beccabunga*.

The author claims many new "forms," e.g., *Veronica Beccabunga forma submersa*, Glück. Many of these are already known, though possibly not recorded, nor even dignified with a Latin name.

Species undergo fission, as they are apt to do in the hands of those who concentrate attention on variable forms. It is, however, fair to say that many of these rest on the authority of other writers before Glück, but it would have been of more general interest had the claims to specific or even mutational rank been experimentally settled.

No doubt a work of this kind possesses some value, but, as it appears to us, it excellently illustrates the truth of the saying that the secret of dullness lies in the attempt to write all one knows. Prof. Glück gives the impression (perhaps unjustly) that he has written all he knows about his subject, and certainly he has jotted down a good deal that is already very familiar to others.

The Teratology of Fishes. By Dr. James F. Gemmill. Pp. xvii+73+xxvi plates. (Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons, 1912.) Price 15s. net.

DR. GEMMILL'S memoir is mainly a very complete and well-illustrated account of the structure of the major abnormalities, or double, triple, and