

has been definitely shown to occur for some species, and is probably characteristic of the epiplanktonic species in general, this explanation does not apply to all cases. In coastal waters, euphausians are sometimes observed at the surface in daylight, and their absence from the tow-net catches may be due to their being able to see and avoid the slowly moving tow-nets. The "full speed" nets used on the *Terra Nova* do not seem to have been efficient for the capture of such comparatively large organisms.

*Les Insectes parasites de l'homme et des animaux domestiques.* Par E. Séguy. (Encyclopédie pratique du Naturaliste, tome 18.) Pp. 442. (Paris: Paul Lechevalier, 1924.) 30 francs.

FRANCE has produced many notable parasitologists, and Brumpt, Neveu-Lemaire, Blanchard, and Ralliet are familiar names of authors of text-books on their subject. M. Séguy is chiefly known as a dipterist, and his studies on mosquitoes have evidently led him to embrace the wider field of parasitology. Although only five orders of insects directly affect man or his domestic animals, a vast literature has grown around them, and the task of treating them at all adequately from the aspect of parasitology is an unusually heavy one. The handbook of M. Séguy is notable as a very concise and practical illustrated epitome of the subject. He has succeeded in compressing within its small compass a really large amount of accurate information.

The Diptera, being the largest order the parasitologist has to contend with, naturally comes in for the major share of treatment. In dealing with this group, the author adopts the heterodox classification of Lameere, who divides the order into only Nemocera and Brachycera. The latter sub-order is made to include the Nemocera *Anomala* of Osten Sacken, the Brachycera and all the Cyclorrhapha of the more usual systems. This feature renders the section devoted to Diptera rather difficult to follow until one's previous ideas have been readjusted accordingly. The Mallophaga, Anopleura, and Aphaniptera are also adequately dealt with, but among the Hemiptera the Reduviidae are perhaps dismissed rather too summarily. The book concludes with a well-chosen bibliography of more than 300 references, which, along with the numerous footnotes, includes most of the important sources of information. A. D. I.

*The Romance of the Apothecaries' Garden at Chelsea.* By Dr. F. Dawtrey Drewitt. Second edition. Pp. 136+15 plates. (London and Sydney: Chapman and Dodd, Ltd., 1924.) 5s. net.

How many persons pass daily by the modest botanical garden in Swan Walk, Chelsea, in blissful ignorance of its origin, its antiquity, and the romance attached to it. Dr. Drewitt's charming little work would tell them that it was established about 1673 by the Society of Apothecaries in order that their apprentices might make themselves familiar with the plants used in medicine that, later on, they would be prescribing for their patients. It would give them an insight into the separation of the Apothecaries from the Grocers, of the opposition the new Company had to face, the vicissitudes through which it had to pass, and the sacrifices it had to make to maintain its garden. Dr. Drewitt has understood how to weave into his account

much of the changes that London and the surrounding villages have undergone during the last three centuries. He tells us of Johnson, Miller, Sir Hans Sloane, Sir Joseph Banks, and other celebrated men who did so much for the Garden, which attained so high a reputation that, as a letter written by a friend of Linnæus to Miller when curator clearly shows, it was the Apothecaries' Garden which brought Linnæus to London. The second edition of the book contains many additional details concerning the history of the trees in the Garden, so that even any one accustomed to use it for the purposes of study will take a far greater and more intelligent interest in it. The book is most fascinating, and can be read again and again with pleasure and profit.

*The Kinetic Theory of Gases.* By Prof. Eugène Bloch. Translated by P. A. Smith. Pp. xiv+178. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 7s. net.

THIS translation, which is taken from Prof. Bloch's work, dated 1921, should meet with a welcome from English readers. The work contains a large amount of information on subjects which commonly find no place in the average text-book. Recent investigations have made the kinetic theory of fluids one of the most vital branches of theoretical physics. Experimental progress has gone hand in hand with the development of theory. There are interesting chapters on statistical mechanics, the theory of quanta, and the Brownian movement and fluctuations. At first sight the width of spectrum lines scarcely seems related to the subject of the book, but the author shows clearly how the width depends on the collisions of the molecules and on their thermal motions. The translator, who has done his work in a very satisfactory manner, has prepared a more complete bibliography of recent papers dealing with the subjects discussed in the various chapters of the book.

*Hellenistic Philosophies.* By P. E. More. (The Greek Tradition from the Death of Socrates to the Council of Chalcedon, 399 B.C. to A.D. 451, Vol. 2.) Pp. v+385. (Princeton: Princeton University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1923.) 13s. 6d. net.

THIS is the second volume (the first dealt with the religion of Plato) of a notable comprehensive account of the Greek philosophical tradition. In Mr. More's view, it ends in scepticism, but arises to new life in Christianity. Two other volumes carrying on the tradition are promised. Mr. More writes with ease and distinction and the book is beautifully printed. The absence of an index seriously handicaps it as a book of reference.

*Practical Organic Chemistry.* By Prof. Julius B. Cohen. Third edition. Pp. xv+520. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1924.) 6s. 6d.

STUDENTS of organic chemistry are indebted to Prof. Cohen for a series of excellent text-books, and this revised edition of his "Practical Organic Chemistry" reaches a high standard. It covers a wide field, including biochemical preparations, and references to the literature are given. A good feature is the very instructive collection of explanatory notes. The book may be recommended as by far the best in any language, and the price is most reasonable.