

by the ammonites to be mainly Kimeridgian but possibly extending into Tithonian and Infravalanginian. The differences between the ammonite faunas of Somaliland and other regions are regarded by Spath as due to differences of age rather than to difference of facies or geographical province.

The beds of Eocene age consist of limestones and sandstones containing corals, echinoids, lamellibranchs, Nautilus, etc. At about the middle some 2000 feet of gypsum and anhydrite occur, indicating that part of the sea became isolated and underwent intense evaporation. The Oligocene limestone is regarded as of Aquitanian age and contains calcareous algæ, foraminifera, corals, etc. The corals resemble those of the Tongrian of northern Italy, Austria, and the West Indies. The absence of Miocene and Pliocene deposits suggests that the Gulf of Aden was not covered by sea until the end of Pliocene times, a little earlier than the date of the raised coral reefs.

It is unfortunate that in many cases the figures of the fossils are unsatisfactory. Some of the specimens were evidently unsuitable for illustration by photographic means and their characteristics cannot be made out.

*Researches on Fungi.* By Dr. A. H. Reginald Buller. Vol. 3: The Production and Liberation of Spores in Hymenomyces and Uredineæ. Pp. xii+611. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1924.) 30s. net.

It is a pleasure to welcome the third volume of Dr. Buller's researches into the production and liberation of spores in the fungi, the second volume of which was noticed in NATURE of October 27, 1923, p. 614. The delicacy of technique, the minuteness and exactness of the observations, and the assiduousness in the elucidation of abstruse details so characteristic of the first two volumes are well maintained in the present work.

In Part I. the author continues his observations on the mechanisms of spore dispersal in the Agaricineæ. He distinguishes two main types of organisation for the production and liberation of spores: (1) *Æquihymeniferæ*, with thick wedge-shaped gills, not afterwards destroyed by autodigestion, and (2) *Inæquihymeniferæ*, with thin parallel-sided gills, afterwards autodigested from below upwards. In the first five chapters the fruit mechanisms of sub-types of the first group are described, e.g. *Lepiota*, *Bolbitius*, *Armillaria*. Most of the remainder of Part I. deals with sub-types of the second group, as exemplified by species of *Coprinus*. Some interesting material on the bilumescence of *Panus*, and the parasitism of *Agaricus* on *Agaric* hosts, is also introduced. Part II. of the volume takes up the production and liberation of basidiospores in the Uredineæ. Dr. Buller finds the essentials of spore dispersal similar to those of the Hymenomyces. In this case, however, the spores are larger and are shot to a greater distance. Some teleological but none the less interesting correlations are given regarding the curvature of the basidium in Uredineæ, and the straight form found in most Hymenomyces. As in the first two volumes, the book is profusely illustrated with interesting photographs and many of the author's fine drawings. J. E.

*Offa's Dyke.* By J. H. Hewlett. Pp. 32+8 plates. (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Ltd., n.d.) 3s. 6d. net.

FOR some time past it has been evident that public interest in archæological discovery has been on the increase, and that this interest has extended to sites of historic and prehistoric importance is to some extent borne out by the protests aroused some two years ago by the threat to interfere with the amenities of Stonehenge. Mr. Hewlett's description of Offa's Dyke is a book which is welcome on this account. The more well-informed the public is about the antiquities of the countryside, the better chance of the avoidance of wanton damage. Mr. Hewlett has divided his account of this interesting defensive work into five sections. In the first, he gives a general description of the dyke; in the second, he traces its course and offers suggestions as to its line where it has now disappeared; in the third, he describes the country through which it passes; in part four he discusses the theories of its purpose; and in the fifth, gives the main facts connected with the life of Ossa. As to its original place of termination in Flintshire, which is still a problem, Mr. Hewlett states the theories which have been put forward, but himself has no solution to offer, although he is of the opinion that it is Wat's Dyke and not Offa's Dyke which ends at Basingwirke, notwithstanding the occurrence along this line of place-names such as Plas Offa, Bryn Offa, and Clawdd Offa (Offa Dyke).

*Handbuch der Pflanzenanatomie.* Herausgegeben von Prof. K. Linsbauer. Abteilung 2, Teil 2: Bryophyten. Band VII/1: Anatomie der Lebermoose. Von Prof. Dr. Th. Herzog. Pp. iv+112. (Berlin: Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1925.) 8-70 gold marks.

DR. TH. HERZOG has produced a monograph of 108 pages with ninety-three text figures upon the anatomy of the liverworts, and in this space it would appear possible to give a very complete report of progress in this very specialised field. There is, however, no mention of mycorrhiza, and some important American work is not discussed. The work is divided into three sections. In the first there is a description of the various types of differentiated cell reported in the group, and it is striking how frequently these differentiated elements are to be found in thalloid forms. This section is followed by two further sections, dealing with the anatomy of gametophyte and sporophyte respectively, in which each group of the liverworts is passed in review in turn.

*Introduction to Modern Political Theory.* By C. E. M. Joad. (The World's Manuals.) Pp. 127. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1924.) 2s. 6d. net.

THIS short manual gives an excellent and clear account of the various socialistic and communistic theories which have recently become important owing to the success of the revolutionary movement in Russia. Mr. Joad takes naturally to this kind of work and is peculiarly well fitted for it. He can write sympathetically without the loss of balance which spoils the work of the propagandist.