Our Bookshelf.

The Dinoflagellates of Northern Seas. By Dr. Marie C. Lebour. Pp. vii + 250 (35 plates). (Plymouth: Marine Biological Laboratory; London: Dulau and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

A SHORT account is given of the general morphology of the Dinoflagellata, in which the terms afterwards employed are clearly explained, the various modes of nutrition are considered, and notes are added on the reproduction and habits. Dr. Lebour expresses the opinion that a large proportion of what are now regarded as species may prove to be merely phases in the life-history of other species. An outline classification showing the families and genera precedes the systematic account, in which a short description of each genus and species is given, and the characters of the species are illustrated by one or more line drawings—those on the 35 plates being original. The methods of collecting and examining dinoflagellates are briefly described, a list of memoirs on the sub-class is appended, and there is a full index.

Dr. Lebour set herself the task of making as complete a survey as possible of the dinoflagellates which are known to occur in northern seas, and she has accomplished the work in a highly successful and critical manner. Her memoir will be warmly received by all who are interested in these organisms.

Kelvin the Man. A Biographical Sketch by his Niece, Agnes Gardner King. Pp. xv + 142 + 12 plates. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 1925.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

BY the many admirers of Lord Kelvin this book will be welcomed. In 1910, Silvanus Thompson wrote the official biography. In the preceding year, Kelvin's sister, Mrs. King, wrote "Lord Kelvin's Early Home," which gives a delightful picture of him from childhood to adolescence as a member of a singularly gifted and harmonious family. Silvanus Thompson says that he purposely abstained from trenching on that narrative, which brings the story of Lord Kelvin's life to 1849. The gap in the story of his personal and family life from 1849 onwards is now filled up by this book written by his niece, Agnes Gardner King. She presents a very pleasant home picture of the great physicist, showing a very human and lovable side of his character. In the introduction, Sir Donald MacAlister says: "The testimony of an eye-witness in intimate touch with his home, and capable of putting down in simple and vivid words what she saw and heard, will crown as with a garland of home-grown flowers the Centenary Memorial raised to his scientific fame."

Intermediate Light. By Dr. R. A. Houstoun. Pp. x + 228. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1925.) 6*s.*

ENCOURAGED by the favour shown by advanced students to his "Treatise on Light," Dr. Houstoun has now produced an elementary book on the same subject. It is broadly of University Intermediate or Higher Certificate standard, but the author, it is pleasant to note, is at no pains to conform to the syllabus of any particular examination. The book, therefore, contains matter seldom found in the ordinary elementary text-book. Colour and colour vision, for example, claim more space than is customary, and the historical references are both less meagre and less stereotyped than usual. At the same time, examination requirements are by no means overlooked, and a collection of questions from various public examinations forms a useful appendix. Other noteworthy features are the numerous and well-planned practical exercises and the new illustrations of familiar principles which are selected whenever possible. The diagrams and production are excellent; in fact, we have noticed nothing more reprehensible than a split infinitive. There is no doubt that the book deserves and will enjoy a wide popularity.

Prof. Dr. Paul Pfurtscheller's Coloured Zoological Wall-Plates. Plate 32: The Common Gnat (*Culex pipiens*). Insecta, Diptera II. 4 ft. 8 in. × 4 ft. 3 in. (London: W. and G. Foyle, Ltd.; The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1925.) Unmounted, 10*s.* 6*d.*; mounted, with rollers, 16*s.*; mounted, with rollers, varnished, 17*s.* 6*d.*

THIS is an excellent plate, lithographed in colours, illustrating the external features of the larva (from the dorsal aspect) and the pupa and the female winged gnat (as seen from one side). The important features are clearly displayed, the parts being skilfully arranged so as to exhibit as much as possible. A portion of the wall of the abdomen of the imago is shown cut away to permit representation of parts of the stomach, intestine, Malpighian tubes and ovary. In the fourth figure the head of a female and the mouth parts are drawn on a larger scale. It is ungracious to ask for more on such a full plate, but a drawing of the head of a male would have been helpful for comparison with that of the female.

Bacteriology. By Prof. Carl H. Browning. (Home University Library of Modern Knowledge.). Pp. 256. (London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.; New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1925.) 2*s.* 6*d.* net.

WE think that Prof. Carl Browning has been extraordinarily successful in presenting a general outline of the principal facts concerning bacteria in a simple and concise manner suited to the general reader. The whole range of bacteriology is dealt with—history, the microscope, methods of investigating bacteria, and their rôle in Nature and in the causation of disease. Subjects such as antitoxins and the toxin-antitoxin reaction, complement fixation, the Weil-Felix agglutination reaction in typhus fever, ultra-microscopic organisms, the bacteriophage, immunity and chemotherapy, are all considered, and their presentation is such that any one reading the accounts of them will have a very good general idea of what they are and mean.

Geometry for Beginners, as far as the Theorem of Pythagoras. By J. G. Bradshaw. Pp. vii + 99. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1925.) 2*s.* 6*d.*

IN many respects an excellent little book, in which blank pages are left for the pupil to insert his own proofs of the simpler propositions which are treated as riders. It is not in accordance with modern views, however, that beginners should be asked to learn the time-honoured proofs for congruence and parallels.