

in palæozoic times. To say nothing about the squids is extraordinary.

It is foolish to-day even for a "Diocesan Press" to talk about "the book of creation" and "the power which makes the planets go"; the religion which prints such worn clichés can only be laughed at by educated Indians; it is best to take advice from S. Athanasius, who is quite clear on this subject. Why drag in a Laccadive sea of no particular interest and certainly not a "sea"? An author must handle oysters and mussels before they can be written about, and why not say how the starfishes of tropical seas kill oysters? Most shelled Buddhas are in freshwater mussels—and Bideford bridge is not at the junction of the Taw and Torridge. The illustrations are well chosen and badly reproduced, but clearly the book is not intended to sell, for 23 pages of letterpress with 6 half-tone plates will never find a wide market at 6s. 9d., taking the rupee at 1s. 6d. Perhaps some member of the staff of the Calcutta Museum might supply the facts for a book and Miss Colthurst the indispensable vivacity; it would do both good.

*British Museum (Natural History). British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910. Natural History Report. Zoology, Vol. 5, No. 5: Coelenterata. Part 5: Hydroida.* By A. Knyvett Totton. Pp. 131-252 + 3 plates. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1930). 15s.

EIGHTY species of hydroids were obtained by the *Terra Nova* expedition, of which four only belong to the *Athecata*, a discrepancy which is not explained. Their geographical distribution is not considered, but judging from the list of stations there would seem to be about the same number of species on suitable bottoms from the surface to 300 fm. The present treatment of a group of beautiful little animals is in a hard systematic strain. The author restrains his soul, for there is scarcely a reference to, and not a single drawing of, any polyp. We wonder whether the classification almost solely on the external skeleton is sound and how far it is going to lead us. The British Museum alone of institutions in Great Britain has the material necessary to answer this question. Like all its publications, the work is well reproduced. We would, however, ask the director to consider the advisability of enforcing standard magnifications in all figures, one genus showing no less than thirteen different magnifications in the plates.

*The Colloid Chemistry of Rubber.* By Dr. Paul Stamberger. Pp. vii + 80. (London: Oxford University Press, 1929.) 6s. net.

THE Oxford University Press has already published under the title "The Colloid Chemistry of the Rubber Industry" a small volume (of 56 pages) by Dr. E. A. Hauser, professor of colloid chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as a report of lectures of a series instituted by Mr. Patrick Gow. The present volume contains the subject-matter of lectures of the same series, given at University College, London, in November 1928, under the title "Colloid Chemistry and its Relation

to the Rubber Industry". The first chapter is a general introduction to the study of colloid chemistry and colloids, the second chapter—on the colloidal properties of rubber—deals with rubber latex and its industrial applications, the third chapter—on lyophile colloids—deals with crude rubber and its solvation, whilst the two remaining chapters deal mainly with the 'compounding' of rubber with 'fillers' of various types, and with its vulcanisation, but also include a section on the synthesis of rubber, and an account of current views on the structure of rubber. The book will appeal most strongly to those who are concerned with the manufacture and use of rubber, but is written on such broad lines that it may be read with interest by other students of colloid science. The volume is presented in a very attractive form and at a reasonable price, and it should have a wide circulation.

*Medicinal Herbs: and How to Identify Them.* By Richard Morse. (The "How to Identify" Series, No. 21.) Pp. 64. (London: The Epworth Press, 1930.) 1s. 6d. net.

IN this little book of 64 pages, descriptions are given of twenty-seven commonly found wild plants that either are or have been used for medicinal purposes. An illustration is given of each plant described, and the descriptive matter includes a description of the plant in popular language, particulars as to where the plant is to be found, and an account of its medicinal properties and uses. The author does not claim that his work is exhaustive in any direction, his object in writing the book being to provide a pocket guide which would enable people on country rambles to learn something about some of the plants they pass.

*The Trauma of Birth.* By Otto Rank. (International Library of Psychology, Philosophy and Scientific Method.) Pp. xv + 224. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.; New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1929.) 10s. 6d. net.

LIKE so very many examples of psycho-analytic writing, this work is almost purely speculative and the author allows himself to be carried away by theorising, seeing and believing what he wishes to see and believe. His main theory is that the trauma of birth is the most deeply repressed portion of the mind. Anxiety and other symptoms are attributed to this birth trauma. From a therapeutic point of view, experience with schizophrenics leads one to be very sceptical of analysis as a procedure of any value.

*The Truth about Mind Cure.* By Dr. William S. Sadler. Pp. viii + 206. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1929.) 5s. net.

"THE Truth about Mind Cure" is a simple and straightforward account of elementary psychotherapy by an American physician. He deals with his subject in a popular way and certainly presents a very readable account for the lay reader. The advice is sound and may do good to many lay people who are interested enough to read it.