

as he is in the flora and fauna, and it is to the friendships which he struck with these people, who are still as likely to collect human heads as camphor, that he owes much of his information.

Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee. Begründet von G. Grimpe und E. Wagler. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe. Lieferung 18. Teil 10a: *Phyllopoda*, von Walther Rammner; Teil 10e₂: *Isopoda genuina*, von H. F. Nierstrasz und J. H. Schuurmans Stekhoven, Jr.; Teil 10e₃: *Anisopoda*, von H. F. Nierstrasz und J. H. Schuurmans Stekhoven, Jr.; Teil 10e₄: *Isopoda*, Nachträge und Berichtigungen; Inhaltsübersicht. Pp. 32 + 77 + 34 + 5. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1930.) 13.50 gold marks.

THE present section containing the Phyllopoda and the Isopoda is a most useful addition to this series of short monographs on the various groups in the fauna of the North Sea and Baltic. There are few Cladocera in the area covered. *Podon* and *Evadne* are the only truly marine genera, *Bosmina coregoni maritima* being a variety of a freshwater species which is capable of living in the low salinity of the Baltic. The general account of these is full and well illustrated. The remainder of the section, and by far the greater portion, is taken up with the Isopoda, divided into *Isopoda genuina* and *Anisopoda*. Here we have abundant material in both divisions. In the first part, after very brief notes on anatomy and biology, with a table of distribution of all the species to be found in the Baltic and North Sea (81 in all), the account is a systematic one. This is extremely useful, for, with the exception of Sars' "Isopoda" in "An Account of the Crustacea of Norway", there is no work which describes and figures all the species in detail. Nearly all the illustrations are actually taken from Sars' own figures and are excellent. Parasitic species, of which there are many, are also included. The section on *Anisopoda* is on the same lines and equally well illustrated.

Nature in the Garden: Wild Life at our Doors. By Edward Step. In 2 volumes. (The "Come-with-Me" Books.) *Early Days to Early Summer.* Pp. x + 149 + 31 plates. *Midsummer to Winter.* Pp. x + 149 + 31 plates. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1931.) 2s. 6d. net each vol.

It is a pleasure to pick up a work such as the late Mr. Edward Step has given us in his "Nature in the Garden". The irresistibly charming intimacy with which the author treats his subject by taking his readers on a Nature ramble around any typical English garden, whether in the town or country, will induce many to indulge in a pleasurable study of these two volumes. It is surprising what a vast amount of fact and helpful knowledge has been packed into these two small books, and after reading them through it is difficult to conceive of anyone failing to feel a greater interest in the natural history of his garden.

The numerous plates and illustrations are a great asset and show care taken over detail, besides being

helpful and instructive to the reader. Without hesitation we may say that this work entirely fulfils the intention of the author, namely, to explain in simple non-technical language a few of the more obvious natural forms that appear in almost every garden. An added interest lies in the assurance given by the author that all the creatures mentioned in the pages of his two volumes were actually found by him in one or other of the gardens which he had owned from time to time.

Jungle Ways. By William B. Seabrook. Pp. 316 (32 plates). (London, Bombay and Sydney: George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., 1931.) 10s. 6d. net.

MR. SEABROOK, as he has shown in his previous writings, is keenly interested in all manifestations of magic and the occult. His visit to Africa, in fact, was largely inspired by a desire to study African magic in its native home as a result of his experience of voodoo in Hayti. His journey in French West Africa fell into four stages. He began in the Ivory Coast area among the Yafouba, an excellent district for the study of magic. He then went on to the Guéré cannibals. An interlude at Timbuctoo was followed by a visit to the Habbé cliff-dwellers. When the author was with the Yafouba he was taken under the wing of a young witch and with her assistance had an excellent opportunity of observing the working of magic in everyday life. He also witnessed a remarkable exhibition of the impaling of young girls on swords. He is no more able to offer an explanation than others who have seen similar performances elsewhere. Among the Guéré he experimented in cannibalism, and describes in some detail the appearance and preparation of the dish and his sensations before, during, and after. In the last section of the book are some striking pictures of phallic rites. The merit of the book lies in its vivid descriptions rather than in its additions to scientific knowledge.

Field Book of Ponds and Streams: an Introduction to the Life of Fresh Water. By Prof. Ann Haven Morgan. (Putnam's Nature Field Books.) Pp. xvi + 448 + 23 plates. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1930.) 15s. net.

A USEFUL book, well qualified to meet the needs of the naturalist anxious to learn about the many members of the flora and fauna of fresh waters. It cannot be expected that such a work could always guide to specific determinations; but often it does so, and the illustrations and descriptions of habits are so definitely to the point that the honest student may attain generic accuracy. Two chapters on varieties of habitat and methods of preserving water animals make an excellent introduction. Unfortunately for us, the book is concerned with American forms of life, and although fresh-water faunas bear a great resemblance the world over, there are groups, especially the vertebrate groups, which scarcely apply to Great Britain. A similar compact ecological treatment of our own fresh-water faunas would be a boon to students on this side of the Atlantic.