

conclusion drawn by the author in his introduction—"the criminal is becoming so scientific not only in his work but in the means he adopts to escape detection, that a scientist is needed to cope with him". The scientific reader will mark that from yet a further point of view his services are urgently demanded by society.

*A Text-Book of Organic Chemistry.* By Prof. Dr. Julius Schmidt. English edition by Dr. H. Gordon Rule. Second edition, revised and extended. Pp. xxiv+843. (London and Edinburgh: Gurney and Jackson, 1932.) 25s. net.

WE learn from the preface that the two-fold purpose of the author in revising the text of the first edition was to incorporate the main advances which have been made in the subject and to avoid any appreciable increase in the size of the book.

An analysis of the distribution of the 45 pages that measure the increase in the size of the book affords a very fair estimate of the conspicuous success with which the author has achieved his object; for 29 pages go to the general section, 8 to the text dealing with the systematic treatment and 8 to the index.

The large extension in the general section enhances considerably the value of the book, for it includes discussions on such subjects as addition to conjugated systems, the electronic theory of valency, the mechanism of racemisation, epimerisation, conditions for enantiomorphism, isomerism due to restricted rotation around a single bond, asymmetrical decomposition, spiro-compounds, the stereochemistry of nitrogen and sulphur, the Beckmann re-arrangement, tautomerism, the parachor, polar properties of organic compounds and factors influencing the magnitude of optical rotatory power. All these subjects are treated with admirable clearness and supplied with full bibliographical references, and certain of them—the one dealing with tautomerism in particular—are valuable monographs on the subjects.

In the text dealing with the systematic treatment, the whole subject has been carefully revised and brought up to date, and the increase of only 8 pages in this section affords no measure of the extent or completeness of this work. For such a measure we turn to the index, in which an increase of 8 pages represents some 360 and 600 new names of authors and subjects respectively.

*Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee.* Begründet von G. Grimpe und E. Wagler. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe. Lief. 21. Teil 1.d<sub>2</sub>: *Einführung in die Hydrographie der Nord- und Ostsee*, von Bruno Schulz; Teil 2.g: *Sporozoa*, von Eduard Reichenow. Pp. 45-88+88. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1932.) 12 gold marks.

THE latest portion of this useful work begins with a concise and good general account of the hydrography of the North Sea and Baltic, with charts and diagrams, occupying forty-four pages. The

remaining eighty-eight pages are taken up by a treatise on the Sporozoa. Omitting the Sarcosporidia as only occurring in the muscles of land vertebrates, Dr. Reichenow divides the group into Telosporidia, Cnidosporidia and Haplosporidia. Most of the known forms belong to the Telosporidia, a fair number to the Cnidosporidia and only a very few to the Haplosporidia. Marine Sporozoa are found in various worms, especially polychætes, in echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and tunicates, besides several in fishes. The author wisely places in his lists many species which have not yet been found in the area dealt with, but as they occur in the Mediterranean, parts of the English Channel and the west of Scotland, the distribution may easily extend farther and their inclusion adds much to the value of the work. This also applies to the general account of the structure and biology which covers all these species and not only those so far found in the North Sea and Baltic. Good descriptions and figures are given and the life-histories of many forms are illustrated.

The whole group is extraordinarily interesting and one in which there is still a large amount to be still discovered. Among the Haplosporidia is the unusual case of a sporozoon (*Anurosporidium pelseneri*) contained in trematode sporocysts of two genera which themselves parasitise the mollusc *Donax trunculus*.

*A Manual of Clinical Laboratory Methods.* By Dr. C. L. Cummer. Third edition, thoroughly revised. Pp. xx-17-585. (London: Henry Kimpton, 1931.) 30s. net.

THE third edition of Prof. Cummer's manual maintains the high standard of the former, and the same policy of conciseness is apparent in the new material which has been introduced. Perhaps the most important additions are the more detailed description of Kahn's reaction for the diagnosis of syphilitic infection, and a full technique for the carrying out of Kline's reaction for the diagnosis and exclusion of syphilis. Among other recently developed tests in biochemistry mentioned are the erythrocyte sedimentation rate, Ehrmann's alcohol test meal, the use of histamine as a gastric juice stimulant, and agglutination tests for tularemia and undulant fever. The Queckenstedt test for subarachnoid block is described, but its interpretation is very loosely worded. The author also includes now the long-established Alzheimer method for identifying different types of cells in the cerebrospinal fluid, and the silver staining for treponemata.

This book can confidently be recommended to biochemists and laboratory workers as containing almost everything required for routine work. For the next edition the author might consider including details of blood calcium estimation, and possibly methods of estimating phosphate and lecithin in the blood. For blood cholesterol, also, an all-glass method of percolating the thimble is preferable to that still included.