

Short Reviews

Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee. Begründet von G. Grimpe und E. Wagler. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe. Lief. 23. Teil 1.b: *Biologische Geschichte der Nord- und Ostsee*, von Sven Ekman; Teil 2.c₂: *Tintinnidæ (Nachträge)*, von E. Jörgensen und A. Kahl; Teil 2.c₃: *Ciliata libera et ectocommensalia*, von A. Kahl; Teil 10.g₃: *Mysidacea*, von C. Zimmer; Teil 10.g₄: *Cumacea*, von C. Zimmer. Pp. 40+27-146+29-120. (Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H., 1933.) 24 gold marks.

THE twenty-third issue of "Die Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee" is full of interesting matter. Dr. Ekman's survey of the biological history is excellent, dealing chiefly with the late and post-Glacial history of the North Sea fauna and of the Baltic fauna and of present-day relicts. Dr. Zimmer's accounts of the *Mysidacea* and *Cumacea* cover a large number of species with details of their biology, anatomy and systematics, much of the special biology being based on his own investigations.

The largest part is occupied by Dr. Kahl's monograph on the *Ciliata* (free and ectocommensal). This includes not only those forms which are known from the area, but, because of the probable cosmopolitan distribution of many species, it also embraces those from the seas and brackish waters of the world. 700 species are here described with notes on the general characters, biology and habitat. Original instructions for collecting and a short paragraph on the culture of these interesting Infusoria are added. Out of 117 pages, 100 are taken up with the systematic account, which consists of keys to the orders, sub-orders, families and genera and, under each genus, a list of species with short diagnoses. Full-page figures containing many drawings, as well as text figures, illustrate these. To describe so many forms in so small a space is an achievement which must have involved an enormous amount of work, only possible from one who knows his subject very thoroughly. In Dr. Kahl we have such a specialist and he is to be congratulated on the result, which will be helpful to all workers.

Colon Classification. By S. R. Ranganathan. Part 1: *Rules of Classification*; Part 2: *Schedules of Classification*; Part 3: *Index to the Schedules*. (Madras Library Association: Publication Series, 3.) Pp. xiv+128+136+106. (Madras: Madras Library Association; London: Edward Goldston, Ltd., 1933.) 15s. net.

THE interesting library classification code set forth in this book by the Librarian of the University of Madras differs from others in that instead of showing a class subdivision for every topic, the schedules contain standard divisions arranged into groups according to function or characteristic, and

the class-mark of any topic is obtained from a combination of the appropriate divisions of the various groups arranged in a specified order, the connecting links between the different groups being a set of special devices of which the most important is the colon from which the system derives its name. It is rightly claimed that the schedule thus produced, while securing as great a degree of minuteness for the classification, occupies a great deal less space in print, but it has the disadvantage that the class allotment of every book necessitates reference to several sections before its correct place is found.

The classification, though dictated to a certain extent by the needs of the system, has been well done, and the scheme is both elastic and comprehensive, while at the same time providing for sensible variations to meet local circumstances. The schedule for Indian literature has been very fully worked out. The class-mark for NATURE under the scheme would be Am 561 : M 68, and that for the book itself regarded as the classification code of the University of Madras Library, 251 : 33 : 44111q N33. A. G.

A Textbook of Biochemistry: for Students of Medicine and Science. By Prof. A. T. Cameron. (Churchill's Empire Series.) Fourth edition. Pp. xi+556+2 plates. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1933.) 15s.

THIS is the fourth edition of a work which is based on lectures given to students of medicine. It is divided into six sections of which the first is introductory and physical, dealing with the conceptions of catalysis and hydrogen ion concentration. Section 2 describes the constituents of the food-stuffs, sugars, fats, proteins, etc. Section 3 treats with the chemistry of digestion, the circulation and the excreta, Section 4 with all that is comprised under the heading "Intermediate Metabolism". Section 5 handles quantitative metabolism, and the final section introduces the student to immunology and pharmacology. To do all this within the compass of 500 pages is a feat; at the same time one cannot help reflecting how much the medical student is expected to master, especially when some of the complex formulæ are examined. In this edition such subjects as the endocrine principles, the vitamins and the sterols have received increased attention as the knowledge of them has progressed. The author has wisely incorporated recent work even at the risk of seeing some of it retracted; in this connexion he might well have made reference to that of Hilditch on the constitution of the fats.

As a minor correction we might note that strophanthin is no longer regarded as containing rhamnase and mannose, but consists of glucose and a unique sugar, cymarose. The book merits continued success.