

*Essentials of Histology: Descriptive and Practical, for the use of Students.* By Sir E. Sharpey-Schafer. Thirteenth edition, edited by Dr. H. M. Carleton. Pp. x+618. (London, New York and Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., 1934.) 15s. net.

FOR a textbook to retain its youthful vivacity after fifty years' wear and tear one expects that magical forces have been at work, and one is not surprised to find that the number of this new edition is the bewitching '13'. This well-known manual of descriptive histology so well conceived by Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer has served as the chief handbook of medical students for two generations, and there are many instances where both father and son have used it; now there is also the possibility of the grandson using it as well. This is indeed a remarkable achievement for a scientific textbook. With the co-operation of Dr. Carleton we now expect it to run into the next century.

As indicative of its rejuvenescence, we may point to the inclusion of a new section on the development of the cells of the blood. This account is in line with the findings of Miss Sabin and her co-workers. It is a subject which has assumed prominence in recent years in view of the success which has attended the treatment of pernicious anæmia with liver extract. Another section which has been remodelled to conform with the advances made in other fields is the growth and development of bone.

The substitution of photomicrographs in selected instances for line drawings has made a further appeal to the student in thus more nearly approaching to the appearance revealed by his microscope. Although he does not obtain as complete a picture as the composite line drawing of many observers yet the strain on his faith in his teachers is easier to bear. This textbook is likely to remain the favourite account of descriptive histology to medical students.

*Die Tierwelt Deutschlands und der angrenzenden Meeresküste nach ihren Merkmalen und nach ihrer Lebensweise.* Begründet von Prof. Dr. Friedrich Dahl. Weitergeführt von Maria Dahl und Prof. Dr. Hans Bischoff. Teil 28: *Tausendfüßler oder Myriapoda. 1: Diplopoda.* Von Dr. Otto Schubart. Pp. vii+318. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1934.) 24 gold marks.

THIS is one of an excellent series of publications dealing with the organisms of the countries bounding the southern part of the Baltic, including Denmark, and those parts of Germany and Holland against the North Sea. This may not be a geographical region, but there are certain similarities in environments, both of land and water, so that it forms a convenient entity. Millipedes here are considered in an entirely systematic manner, and they are well treated, with tables for the identifications of family and genus, the whole accompanied by a good bibliography. Each species is given an excellent and well-illustrated systematic description, and this is followed by accounts of its biology and distribution. Clearly we have a reference book necessary to every library of zoology and one not likely to be superseded for several decades.

*An Essay on Philosophical Method.* By R. G. Collingwood. Pp. xii+227. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1933.) 10s. net.

MR. COLLINGWOOD has produced a profound and useful monograph which raises and discusses the question of what philosophy is and what methods should be used in approaching it. Owing to the variety of systems in existence, it may seem that classification should render some service to philosophy. Yet, the theory of classification, which may be applied to exact as well as to empirical sciences, cannot be rigidly applied to philosophical concepts. The determination of a scale of forms is the first objective of the philosopher. Then he must consider the quality of his judgments and of its inference in all their aspects; only then can he hope to build up a systematic whole and pass judgment on its value. The views expressed by the author require careful consideration, as his suggestions will be found to be extremely important in a subject which appears to the layman, wrongly we believe, to be in a chronic state of chaos.

T. G.

*Vie et rajeunissement: une nouvelle méthode générale de traitement et mes expériences de rajeunissement de Bologne et Paris.* Par Dr. Francesco Cavazzi. Pp. xii+73+17 plates. (Paris: G. Doin et Cie, 1934.) 22 francs.

THIS is a communication made to the Society of Medicine of Paris with discussion and author's reply. The new method of treatment is the subcutaneous injection of the serum of the efferent vein from the testicle of a young healthy animal. It is stated that the internal secretion of the testicle flows into the blood stream so soon as it is formed, and therefore the serum is more potent than an extract of testicular tissue. Remarkable rejuvenating effects are claimed. A record of cases with photographs is given, showing that the effects last for at least two or three years. It is suggested that the effects are due not to a temporary stimulation which would use up the existing available energy of the body, but to the improved nutritional state of the central nervous system, especially the spinal cord.

*The Naturalist on the Prowl.* By Frances Pitt. Pp. x+137+32 plates. (London: Country Life, Ltd., 1934.) 5s. net.

IN easy style, Miss Pitt achieves the double purpose of presenting a series of descriptive and pictorial vignettes of animal life in the country, and of revealing how the novice may attempt to follow in her steps. Her quarry ranges from spiders' webs to bats, otters and seals, but it is mainly birds, and the account of blackcock tournaments, repeatedly observed when no female birds were present, shows that sexual selection may not enter into what appears to be an ebullition of high spirits.

Some of the photographic hints are well worth consideration by experienced workers, such as the possibility of using a hide without elaborate camouflage, and the desirability of carrying a selection of lenses of different focal lengths. Miss Pitt's photographs justify the means.