

The difficulties of identification of scale insects are considerable, but they are a highly interesting group from the taxonomic point of view and have the added attraction that many species are of great economic importance and wide distribution as pests. In spite of this their study has been much neglected, and all who are interested will be grateful to Prof. Ferris for undertaking the valuable publication, which should prove a stimulus to further work.

Some Beautiful Indian Trees

By the late Rev. E. Blatter and Walter S. Millard. Pp. x+110+68 plates. (London: John Bale, Sons and Curnow, Ltd., 1937.) 21s. net.

THIS book represents the elaboration of materials already published in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. 31 beautiful coloured plates, 35 full-plate photographs and 42 line drawings in the text of 108 pages are ample and excellent illustrations for the guidance of those who desire to acquaint themselves with some of the striking trees that are frequently met with in the plains of India. Detailed descriptions of the more common species have been given, together with notes on their distribution, economic uses and gardening. A long list of popular names has also been added. Suitable English names of some of the species have been coined. The generic name is followed by an appropriate explanatory note. The book is nicely bound and well printed.

But such rich materials lack in proper arrangement and uniformity in the treatment of families, genera and species dealt with in this volume. Such want of sequence in the subject-matter is a bit confusing to the reader. Notes on distribution might have been made more useful by incorporating further details of localities by consulting herbarium specimens of different parts of India and Burma. The lists of popular names in some cases are too long. The names of some of the species require slight modification in the light of the international rules of botanical nomenclature.

The book is entitled "Some Beautiful Indian Trees"; but some of the species dealt with are not indigenous to India.

Although there is room for several improvements in the book, yet it is indeed a laudable attempt on the part of the authors towards better recognition of some of the attractive Indian trees. The volume is a valuable addition to the Indian botanical publications. It will undoubtedly prove useful to the lovers of plants, both Indians as well as foreigners visiting India.

Mytilus

By Kathleen M. White. (Department of Oceanography, University of Liverpool: L.M.B.C. Memoirs on Typical British Marine Plants and Animals, 31.) Pp. vii+117+10 plates. (Liverpool: University Press of Liverpool; London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd., 1937.) 9s. net.

SIR WILLIAM HERDMAN did a good day's work forty years ago when he planned out for the Liverpool Marine Biological Committee the series of papers

known ever since as the "L.M.B.C. Memoirs". They have put on record, in more or less detail, the structure and natural history of one common animal after another—no small service; for, as Huxley once said, if the commonest of our British animals became suddenly extinct, we should find we knew next to nothing about many of them. The writing of these memoirs has trained the prentice hand of many a naturalist, among them Ashworth and James Johnstone, Cole, Dakin, Eales, Fleure, Hickson, Imms and Punnett. A new part still comes out every now and then, and No. 31 has just appeared; it is by Miss Kathleen White of Reading, on the common mussel.

Abundance, cheapness and convenient size all fit *Mytilus edulis* for students' use, but it is not very easy to dissect—until you know how. Miss White gives a clear and full account of its anatomy, with the part on the circulatory system particularly good; her figures are excellent, and her brief instructions for dissection are very much to the point. There have been several other monographs on the mussel since de Heide wrote a book on its anatomy two hundred and fifty years ago. Seventy years ago Sabatier began an elaborate study, but never finished it; Field wrote a better and more complete one in a bulletin of the U.S. Fisheries Bureau; now Miss White has given us the best and handiest of them all.

Biology for Students of Pharmacy

By E. J. Moore. Pp. vii+415+8 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1937.) 15s. net.

ELEMENTARY biology is one of the basic subjects for several types of students reading for professional degrees or diplomas such as in agriculture, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and so forth. A general elementary course in biology should satisfy all needs, yet since most professional examining bodies set their own syllabuses, he would be an ambitious author who attempted to satisfy all requirements in one text-book.

A course which is really a combined one of botany and zoology is not the kind of biology which meets with approval to-day; but the author of this book disarms this justifiable criticism of his work by stating explicitly that "the arrangement of the chapters has been decided partly by the fact that the published syllabus [of the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain] is divided into plant and animal sections". So he wisely follows the syllabus.

This enforced failing aside, the book can be described as excellent. It is quite clear that the author takes his subject as a serious teacher and has not merely compiled his book from other publications or teaching schedules. The text is quite up to date and very lucid, and the two hundred diagrams and eight plates are so clearly produced and labelled that every student of pharmacy can be sure of getting as much out of the book as he requires.

Teachers and students of biology in the pharmaceutical departments of colleges and universities would do well to consider adopting this book as their standard.