

the boys he saw at work, Baganda at Budo and Makerere, is equal to that of the average of European peoples, or the difference is extremely slight. Certainly he feels hopeful of the results; hints at possibilities of improvement, is sceptical of the wisdom of studying Coleridge, of questions on electric lifts and trams, thinks that the English language will eventually oust Swahili as the *lingua franca* of the country, speculates whether the art of Epstein would not appeal more to the native mind than that of Raphael, and is convinced that "Territory can only justifiably pass from one mandatory power to another by a plebiscite of its population."

Appendixes deal first with the legends relating to the sources of the Nile and the Mountains of the Moon, and secondly, with the possibility of the acclimatization in Britain of some of the African mountain plants the author saw.

The illustrations are varied and striking: partly taken from oil paintings and drawings by Stuart Somerville, two in colour; and partly from photographs taken by various members of the expedition. They are by no means the least noteworthy part of the work. Two maps and an index are provided. One slip may be mentioned: the duiker is an antelope, not a deer.

J. P.

Oyster and other Fisheries of Great Britain

(1) Oyster Biology and Oyster Culture:

being the Buckland Lectures for 1935. By Prof. J. H. Orton. Pp. 211. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1937.) 5s. net.

(2) The Nation's Sea-Fish Supply:

being the Buckland Lectures for 1936. By E. Ford. Pp. 112 + 4 plates. (London: Edward Arnold and Co., 1937.) 3s. 6d. net.

(1) **T**HE earlier course of Buckland Lectures is devoted to the oyster, a full investigation of which was subsidized for some years, commencing in 1919, by the Empire Marketing Board acting through the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. There was at that time an immense mortality amongst the oysters of the east coast of England, and it was suggested, rather hysterically, that this was due to the dumping of trinitrotoluene in that region—an obvious impossibility. The real cause has never been explained, but the researches of Prof. J. H. Orton and the information obtained by him and here presented will save a second such waste of public money.

Of this presentation we can scarcely write too highly both as to its form and substance—the complete life-history of the 'Native' and an excellent account of its culture. This oyster is shown to be protogynous, changing its sex to the male immediately after spawning and again evicting its gametes. Then, many of the oysters in winter become female and afterwards again revert to male—four changes of sex in thirteen months. Spawning takes place on the beds when the temperature of the water rises to about 60° F., but the causes of good and bad spatting years is still unknown.

(2) In the second course of lectures, Mr. Ford examines our fish supply, stimulated thereto by the profound change effected in the industry by

the Sea-Fishing Act of 1933, followed up by the formation of a Herring Industry Board of Control in 1935, probably the prototype of a Whitefish Board in 1938. Previous to this, British vessels were subject to little or no regulation either as to catching or marketing, but few will be prepared to contest the necessity for this somewhat socialistic measure.

To understand the matter it is essential to appreciate the change that has come over Great Britain in recent years, the greatly increased provision of meats, fruit and vegetables at standard prices and so put up that they can be served without further preparation, each purchase 100 per cent nutritive. At present, at least half the fresh fish sold is from the counters of the fish friers, fish otherwise being largely a luxury product, as can be seen from the fact that it has little or no interest to co-operative societies. In consequence, the industry, while formerly thinking largely in terms of fish-bulk, now has to deal mainly with the demand for species in economic quantities. Before the Great War there was a question of overfishing of grounds induced partially by thoughts of lessened catches, these met later by geographical boundaries being extended and improved methods of fishing.

Still the question of a holocaust of undersized fish is with us, but the researches of the western nations of Europe in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, reconstituted in 1919, now make possible the free acceptance of international regulations, such as sizes of mesh of nets and size limits for each marketable fish. The author is an acknowledged expert whose discussion is always both of value and of importance—and above all he bids us to remember that "fish are livestock which need to be exploited with reasonable care and caution".