

Die Tierwelt Deutschlands und der angrenzenden Meeresteile nach ihren Merkmalen und nach ihrer Lebensweise

Begründet von Prof. Dr. Friedrich Dahl. Teil 31 und 32: Spinnentiere oder Arachnoidea. vii: Wassermilben oder Hydracarina (Hydrachnellæ und Halacaridæ). (1) Pp. x+288. 24 gold marks. (2) Pp. 289-574. 24 gold marks. Teil 33: Spinnentiere oder Arachnoidea. viii: Gnaphosidæ, Anyphænidæ, Clubionidæ, Hahniidæ, Argyronetidæ, Theridiidæ. Pp. ii+222. 20 gold marks. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1937.)

THE issue under notice of this well-known work deals with six families of spiders and is more substantial than any of its predecessors in this order. It includes descriptions of 169 German species, in 39 genera, with notes on their distribution, both in Germany and elsewhere, and full dichotomic tables for their separation. The classification used is that of Petrunkevitch, 1933; for example, the water-spider, *Argyroneta*, occupies a family by itself. The illustrations are a striking feature of the work. There are more than 500 clear line diagrams of genitalia and other pertinent parts, which are invaluable for purposes of identification, and many of which have never been published before. The value of the work to British readers is very great. About ninety of the species described occur in Britain, all being mentioned as so doing, and as a help in naming the species of some of our most important families, this work far surpasses anything previously obtainable.

This is not so forcibly true of the two parts on water-mites, for the Ray Society publications of 1925, 1927 and 1929 have covered the same ground. Dr. Viets' work opens with thirty valuable pages on the habits of water-mites, and he also gives directions for collecting, preserving and mounting them. In the systematic portion, 441 species of German water-mites are described in 92 genera and illustrated by more than 650 clear diagrams. There is a greater uniformity of treatment here than in the part on spiders, which is the work of three contributors, but all three parts should be assured of a welcome proportionate to their undoubted value. T. H. S.

Annual Reports on the Progress of Chemistry for 1937
Vol. 34. Issued by the Chemical Society. Pp. xvi+540. (London: The Chemical Society, 1938.) 13s.

IN these annual reports, no attempt is made to present a comprehensive review of the year's chemical publications; to do so would result either in a volume of size so great as to defeat its purpose or in surveys so lacking in detail as to be valueless. Instead, these reports perform the much more useful and attractive service of providing a collection of "proofs of evidence by expert witnesses" concerning selected fields where researches of fundamental importance are being actively prosecuted.

The first report is devoted to radioactivity and sub-atomic phenomena. The second deals with non-radioactive isotopes, chemical kinetics, photochemistry, intermolecular forces and the properties of liquids, and electrochemistry. Inorganic chemistry

is represented by chapters on sodium metaphosphates and polyphosphates, the rare earths, compounds of boron, halogen oxides, and the behaviour of elements and compounds at high pressures. Crystallography is represented by sections on lattice defects in polar crystals, crystal chemistry, the structure of liquids and amorphous solids, and molecular crystals. A report on the structure and stereochemistry of simple organic molecules is followed by others on general methods, free radicals, carbohydrates, proteins, triterpenes, heterocyclic compounds, porphyrins, and rubrenes and azulenes. There are substantial sections on animal and plant biochemistry, whilst analytical chemistry is dealt with not only from the general inorganic point of view but also in the special aspects of spectrum and of rock analysis. A. A. E.

John Locke

By Prof. R. I. Aaron. (Leaders of Philosophy Series.) Pp. x+328. (London: Oxford University Press, 1937.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS excellent book on a thinker who is a classic in philosophy will give fresh impetus to discussion and controversy. It is not the first part of this work, which deals adequately with Locke's life, or the third part, where we find a good summary of Locke's views on moral philosophy, political theory, education and religion, which may be a ground of dissent; but rather the second part, which deals with the central points of Locke's psychology and systemology. The author's interpretation of the term 'idea', for one thing, scarcely helps to set one's mind at ease about Locke's meaning of this term. There is also the disturbing view that "we now find Locke asserting that sensation is itself knowledge for we know in it the existence of things" (p. 244), which is not supported by any quotations from the "Essay". The author's main purpose is to interpret Locke as a representationalist in his theory of ideas, a view which seems rather to restrict the aim and value of the "Essay". The brief reference made to Locke's views on the positive sciences are coloured by this interpretation. If this is allowed for, Prof. Aaron's book may be regarded as a notable addition to philosophical scholarship. T. G.

Sur les autres mondes

Par Lucien Rudaux. Pp. vi+222+20 plates. (Paris: Librairie Larousse, 1937.)

THIS work is a comprehensive and detailed account of the sun, moon and planets, intended for the general reader. The author adopts the historical method and leads the reader gradually to an up-to-date picture of each of the bodies concerned, with a carefully planned exposition of planetary phenomena. M. Rudaux is also a most accomplished artist and the book is profusely illustrated with diagrams and coloured plates, the latter being mainly imaginative reconstructions of the planetary and lunar scenes. As an example of his pictorial method, we may mention the aspect of Saturn and its rings as seen from one of Saturn's satellites. The author and publishers are to be congratulated on a really magnificent production. W. M. S.