

SCIENCE NEWS A CENTURY AGO

Sir William Jardine's "British Salmonidæ"

"A WORK of considerable, and in some respects of national importance," said the *Athenæum* of October 19, 1839, "has long been in preparation, and one number published by Sir William Jardine on the 'Scottish Salmonidæ'. The announced intention was a series of plates, illustrating the different species, accompanied by an octavo volume of descriptive letter-press. . . . Though the work was nominally restricted to Scotland, because the numerous lochs, rivers and mountain streams in that country offered the greatest facility for extended observation, it would of necessity have included almost all the British species. . . . Now our readers will hear, as we did, with surprise, that notwithstanding the scientific interest which must attach to such a work—notwithstanding the direct pecuniary interest, which many persons must have in the subject, and even its legislative importance, for we have had at least half a dozen different committees of inquiry appointed by Parliament or the Government—the work is likely to be abandoned for want of patronage—even though Sir William Jardine has consented to proceed with it if but sixty subscribers could be obtained, sufficient only to secure him against direct pecuniary loss. Surely with so many noblemen and gentlemen interested in the questions to be resolved by such a work—so many Scientific Institutions, so many Societies professedly devoted to inquiries in Natural History, scattered over the three kingdoms, this announcement will be sufficient to ensure its completion."

The author of this work, which ultimately appeared under the title "History of British Salmonidæ", was the distinguished naturalist Sir William Jardine, Bart., who was born in Edinburgh on February 22, 1800, and died on November 21, 1874, in the Isle of Wight. Entering the University of Edinburgh at the age of seventeen, he attended the lectures of Prof. Jameson and devoted himself to natural history and anatomy. At the age of twenty-one he succeeded to the title and estates in Dumfriesshire. With Prideaux Selby (1788–1867) Sir Stamford Raffles (1781–1826) and others he published "Illustrations of Ornithology" and at his home, Jardine's Hall, Dumfriesshire, formed one of the largest collection of birds in the country. His other writings included the "Memoirs of Hugh Strickland" and an edition of White's "Natural History of Selborne", and for seven years he was joint-editor of the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*. In 1860 he was appointed commissioner on salmon fisheries.

The Royal Navy and Screw Propulsion

ON October 16, 1839, an experimental trip was made in the Thames with the S.S. *Archimedes* fitted with the screw propeller of Francis Pettit Smith, the trial being attended by Captain Sir William Symonds, the Surveyor of the Navy, Captain Sir William Edward Parry, the head of the Steam Department at the Admiralty, Captains Basil Hall, Austin and Smith, R.N., Peter Ewart the chief engineer of Woolwich Dockyard, Joseph Miller, Charles Manby and others. In the following spring the *Archimedes* was tried against H.M.S.V. *Widgeon*, a paddle-wheel vessel employed on cross-channel mail service, and it was the success of the *Archimedes* which led to the introduction of the screw propeller into the Navy.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:

SECRETARY (woman) for the Macaulay Institute of Soil Research—The Director, Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen (October 21).

HEADMASTERSHIP OF EPSOM COLLEGE—The Secretary, Epsom College, Epsom, Surrey (October 25).

TEMPORARY LECTURER IN GARDENING—The Principal, Cheshire County Training College, Crewe.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

UFAW Monographs and Reports. No. 4E: Instructions for dealing with Rabbits. Compiled by Capt. C. W. Hume. Third edition, revised and enlarged. Pp. 20. (London: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare.) 3d. [209]

British Museum (Natural History). Economic Leaflet No. 3: The Silver Fish and Firebrat. Pp. 4. (London: British Museum (Natural History).) 1d. [229]

Planetary Co-ordinates for the Years 1940–1960 referred to the Equinox of 1950-0. Prepared by H.M. Nautical Almanac Office. Pp. xvi+150. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 17s. 6d. net. [269]

British Chemicals and their Manufacturers: the Official Directory of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers (Incorporated). Pp. 394. (London: Association of British Chemical Manufacturers.) Gratis. [239]

Imperial Bureau of Horticulture and Plantation Crops. Technical Communication No. 12: Plant Hormones and their Practical Importance in Horticulture. By Dr. H. L. Pearse. Pp. 83. (East Malling: Imperial Bureau of Horticulture and Plantation Crops.) 3s. 6d. [210]

Emergency Medical Services. Memorandum No. 4: Memorandum for the Guidance of Medical Officers and other Personnel at First Aid Posts. Pp. 14. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 3d. net. [210]

Other Countries

Union of South Africa: Department of Mines, Geological Survey. Sheet 173: Oliphants Hoek. 42 in. x 25½ in. Sheet 173: Oliphants Hoek, Economic Details of the Iron and Manganese Occurrences. No. 1: Geological Map of the Iron and Manganese Occurrences; No. 2: The Occurrences on the Farm Bishop. 36 in. x 24 in. (Pretoria: Government Printer.) [209]

Report of the Aeronautical Research Institute, Tōkyō Imperial University. No. 177: On the Sodium Line Reversal Method of Determining the Temperature in a Gasoline Engine. By Umezō Yoshida. Pp. 193–210+7 plates. 50 sen. No. 178: On the Simple-Chromatic Photograph. By Daizo Nukiyama. Pp. 211–272. 95 sen. (Tōkyō: Kōgyō Tōsho Kabushiki Kaisha.) [229]

Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt: Technical and Scientific Service. Bulletin No. 200: A Trypanosome encountered in a Tigris *Tryp. kiridani* n.sp. By Dr. Zaki Mohamed. Pp. 16+2 plates. P.T. 2. Bulletin No. 206: Bud-Shedding and its relation to Pollen Development in Cotton. By Abdel-Ghaffar Selim. Pp. 10+6 plates. P.T. 2. Bulletin No. 214: The Discovery of Rickettsia in a Fish. By Dr. Zaki Mohamed. Pp. 6+1 plate. P.T. 1. Bulletin No. 222: The Quantity, Distribution and Composition of the Organic Matter and Available Nitrogen in Egyptian Soils. By David S. Gracie and Dr. Fahmy Khalil. Pp. 42+4 plates. P.T. 5. (Cairo: Government Press.) [229]

Reports of the Japan Institute for Science of Labour, Inc. No. 41: Employment Tests for Rayon Factory Hands, by Dr. Sigemi H. Kirihara and Kazuo Nakamura; Die Forschung der spezifischen Augenkrankungen in der Kunstseidemfabriken, von Goro Akagi. Pp. 14. (Tokyo: Japan Institute for Science of Labour.) 50 sen. [289]

Journal of the Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido Imperial University. Vol. 42, Part 4: Studien über die Pilzmücken (*Fungioidæ*) aus Hokkaido. Von Ichiji Okada. Pp. 267–336+plates 15–18. (Tokyo: Maruzen Co., Ltd.) [299]

Report and Accounts of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, Kirstenbosch, Newlands, Cape (and the Karoo Garden, Whitehill, near Matjesfontein) for the Year ending 31st December 1938. Pp. 28. (Kirstenbosch: National Botanic Gardens.) [210]

Government of Iraq: Ministry of Defence, Meteorological Service. Annual Report of the Director, No. 3: Year ending 31st March 1939. Pp. ii+9+19. (Baghdad: Government Press.) [210]

Advisory Committee on Education. Staff Study No. 12: Special Problems of Negro Education. By Doxey A. Wilkerson. Pp. xvi+171. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 25 cents. [210]

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1824: The Black Hills Beetle, a Serious Enemy of Rocky Mountain Pines. By J. A. Beal. Pp. ii+22. 5 cents. Leaflet No. 185: Elm Bark Beetles. By T. H. Jones. Pp. 8. 5 cents. Technical Bulletin No. 693: The External Anatomy of the Larva of the Pacific Coast Wireworm. By H. P. Lancheater. Pp. 40. 10 cents. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [210]