

only a few diagrams; for the class of worker who would most depend on this book, spectroscopic charts and illustrations of electrophoretic patterns, for example, would have been of great value. Again, the omission of any mention of paper chromatography or of serum transaminase tests is noticeable. On the other hand, the directness and simplicity of the text are much to be commended.

This book will be very useful to technicians, clinical pathologists and doctors in smaller hospitals in Britain and overseas, and to medical research workers who need to do routine clinical biochemical tests as part of a larger research scheme. It forms a useful addition to the larger and more well-known textbooks of clinical biochemistry.

D. S. H. W. NICOL

#### Biological Laboratory Data

By Dr. L. J. Hale. (Methuen's Monographs on Biological Subjects.) Pp. x+132. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.; New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1958.) 15s. net.

BOOKS intended as laboratory aids are by no means rarities and cover a great variety of subjects, while they range in their appeal from the beginner to the advanced research worker. This book falls rather into the latter category and it has some unusual features which single it out among those devoted to the biological sciences. The emphasis on the mathematical side, for example, is conspicuous. Out of a total of one hundred and twenty-seven pages, twenty-three deal with mathematical data, twelve are devoted to statistical data and formulae and thirty-five to physical and chemical data. This is not an overweening proportion but it is more extensive than in most books of this size and type and the material is very handily presented.

The result, however, has been somewhat to repress the more strictly biological matter, so that cultural methods for the laboratory get only seven pages, inclusive of a page of references to other works, while histological and histo-chemical data cover only fourteen pages. This seems meagre considering the enormous amount of such data available and a better balance might easily be achieved. There is no doubt, however, of the value of the material which the book contains and the mathematical sections alone should ensure it a wide popularity among biologists, who so often feel the need of guidance in that field.

R. C. McLEAN

#### The Salmon

By Dr. J. W. Jones. (New Naturalist Special Volume.) Pp. xvi+192+12 plates. (London: William Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1959.) 18s. net.

ON the whole Dr. Jones has written a readable book. The chapters dealing with the spawning of adult salmon and young males are the best in the book, as it is there that Dr. Jones has drawn largely from his own work and experiences. An important chapter is devoted to scale reading from which many of the details of the life-history of the salmon have been discovered.

The chapter on "Salmon in the Sea" is frankly disappointing, as sufficient use has not been made of the information amassed in the past thirty years, so the reader does not get a clear picture of the long migrations which salmon often make when returning to the river of their birth.

Other chapters deal with the early life of the salmon, the return to the river, the return to the sea

and the salmon river. The book is completed by four useful appendixes dealing with the characters of salmon and trout and their hybrids, a key to the genera of the Salmonidae, etc., a description of the parasites of salmon and methods of estimating lengths from scales. Serious readers will also find the bibliography of value in their more extensive reading.

One serious criticism of the book I have to make is that many of the illustrations are poor. The publishers inform us in a note opposite the title page that in this series of publications "the animals and plants are described in relation to their homes and habitats with the help of fine photographs"; the italics are mine. Plates 4, 5, 6 and 7 are certainly not based on fine photographs as I have often seen better in angling magazines.

ARTHUR E. J. WENT

#### Nitration of Hydrocarbons and other Organic Compounds

By A. V. Topchiev. Translated from the Russian by Catherine Matthews. Pp. vi+329. (London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1959.) 90s. net.

TRANSLATIONS of foreign texts are seldom successful unless carried out by workers in the same field with freedom to incorporate recent material. The pitfalls are well illustrated by this book, which is both out of date and unreadable. There are one or two references to papers published early in 1954, but none to the more recent literature. Since much work of fundamental importance to this field has been published during the past five years the book is of little value as an account of the subject, although it does contain a rather complete account of the earlier literature and a useful summary of Russian papers that are not readily accessible in Britain.

It is most unfortunate that the distinguished author of the book could not have been persuaded to revise it during translation.

M. J. S. DEWAR

#### Commonwealth Universities Yearbook, 1959

Pp. xxvii+1407. (London: Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 1959.) 84s.; 13 dollars.

THE invaluable "Commonwealth Universities Yearbook" is now in its thirty-sixth edition. There are no major changes from last year's edition, when the new enlarged format was introduced, but the size has increased from 1365 to 1435 pages, mainly in order to accommodate expansions in university staff.

The University of Sherbrooke in Canada and Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth in India are mentioned for the first time, and the University College of Fort Hare in South Africa now has a complete entry. Two events which occurred in Australia as the book was going to press are also mentioned briefly: the founding of Monash University in Victoria and the transformation of the New South Wales University of Technology into a multi-faculty University of New South Wales.

The valuable essays in higher education in the various countries have been brought up to date, and where necessary additions have been made to the maps showing where the universities are located.

New features of this edition include a full-length summary of admission requirements by the Canadian Universities, and information on the transfer courses at certain British universities whereby students who have previously studied arts subjects can switch to science.