

that one knows he has studied them himself. It is a pity he has not made more original drawings, because some of the illustrations chosen are not very satisfactory. Dr. Randhawa, like most modern workers on the group, has little use for infra-specific categories. This is in marked contrast to the other major group of the Zygnemales, the desmids, where specialists describe innumerable varieties and forms.

Although the important work of Dr. M. B. E. Godward on the cytology of *Spirogyra* is mentioned (p. 21) it is ignored in the section on the nucleus (pp. 53-59); consequently, the taxonomic potentialities of nuclear and chromosomal structures are also ignored, as are the new species she has described. In the section on Lloyd's discovery of contractile vacuoles in the gametes of *Spirogyra*, Matvienko's finding that these may only appear in the male gamete is omitted. The maps are puzzling. Naturally, like most maps covering the distribution of fresh-water algae, these show mainly where phycologists have worked, but some features are misleading. Thus there are apparently only two species of *Zygnema* and four of *Spirogyra* recorded for England, whereas, in fact, about eight times as many are recorded. It is correctly stated on p. 261 that *Zyggonium ericetorum* has been recorded from every continent, but reference to map H gives the false impression that it is unknown in Europe outside England, in Asia outside India and China, in Africa outside the Union of South Africa and in America outside the United States.

Such criticism of these books as seems necessary does not alter the fact that they are considerable achievements and deserve the wide circulation they are likely to obtain.

J. W. G. LUND

EUROPEAN SPIDERS

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

Begründet von Prof. Dr. Friedrich Dahl. Weitergeführt von Maria Dahl und Prof. Dr. Hans Bischoff. 47 Teil: Spinnentiere oder Arachnoidea (Araneae). XI: Micryphantidae—Zwergspinnen. Von Dr. Hermann Wiehle. Pp. xi+620. (Jena: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1960.) 107.65 D.M.

THIS volume completes a series of monographs on the German spider fauna which began in 1926 with Dahl's *Salticidae*. The group of spiders described in this volume, known to the British araneologists as the sub-family Erigoninae, has been elevated to family rank by Dr. Wiehle under the name Micryphantidae. The text covers 615 pages, has 1,147 figures and describes 144 species in 74 genera. Together with the previous volume on the Linyphiidae, Dr. Wiehle has completed a monumental work which will stand as an authoritative text on European spiders for many years. Apart from the British Ray Society monograph by G. H. Locket and A. F. Millidge published during 1951-53, the present volume is the only modern work dealing with the difficult taxonomy of a very large family of tiny spiders, of which more than half are between 1 and 2 mm. in length. The German fauna is of particular interest to the British student because it includes both western and eastern European species, whereas the British fauna (144 species in 68 genera) is predomi-

nantly western and northern. Adequate taxonomic works on the Linyphiidae and Micryphantidae have become especially important in recent years because of the development of ecological studies on spiders, particularly those species in the litter and ground vegetation, most of which are members of these two families.

Wiehle's subdivision of the Micryphantidae into four sub-families follows closely that of Petrunkevitch in 1928. Sub-families Masoninae and Pelecopsinae have been generally recognized since they were proposed by Simon in 1884, and Wiehle has preferred Simon's name Walckenaerinae for the third sub-family instead of Petrunkevitch's Gonatiinae. The fourth sub-family, Erigoninae, remains, although there has been a redistribution of genera between it and the Walckenaerinae.

The genera and species keys owe a great deal to previous work by J. Denis in France and A. F. Millidge in England. The numerous figures are clearly drawn and an invaluable aid to identification. The list of references includes 187 titles, but omits that of Engelhardt (1958) which is referred to on page 1.

ERIC DUFFEY

NEUROSURGERY IN WAR-TIME

Neurosurgery

Vol. 2. Edited by R. Glen Spurling and Barnes Woodhall. (Medical Department, United States Army. Surgery in World War II.) Pp. xxvi+705+12 plates (283 figures). (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, 1959. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office.) 7 dollars.

THE previous excellent volume on neurosurgery in this series dealt with the organization of the specialty in the United States Army Medical Service during the Second World War and with head injuries; the present, and larger one, deals with spinal and peripheral nerve injuries.

The section on spinal injuries deals with every aspect of missile wounds of the spinal cord, with particular emphasis on details of nursing care, organization of evacuation and the urological problems presented by these patients. In the latter connexion, it is of interest that closed vesical drainage with manual control was preferred to automatic (tidal) drainage. An excellent account is presented of the work carried on in the paraplegic centres established in the United States to care for these terribly handicapped men, and the description of the financial and other assistance provided to resettle them in their homes and at work is impressive. The goal of those in charge of these centres is well summarized in the aphorism "Having added years to the lives of traumatic paraplegics, we must now, above all, add life to their years".

Peripheral nerve injuries are considered fully from anatomical, physiological and surgical points of view. Other chapters deal with injuries of these nerves combined with serious soft tissue, bone and vascular damage. Causalgia and its treatment are fully discussed. A most valuable chapter correlates the clinical features with the pathological changes, gross and microscopic, occurring at the site of injury in a series of more than 200 peripheral nerves.