

OUR BOOKSHELF.

British Rainfall, 1912. On the Distribution of Rain in Space and Time over the British Isles during the Year 1912, as recorded by more than 5000 Observers in Great Britain and Ireland, and discussed with Articles upon various Branches of Rainfall Work. By Dr. H. R. Mill, assisted by C. Salter. Fifty-second annual volume. Pp. 96+372. (London: E. Stanford, Ltd., 1913.) Price 10s.

THE plan of this valuable annual volume remains almost exactly as before; it is well known to many of our readers, and is welcomed by meteorologists and others for its comprehensiveness and the scrupulous care exercised in dealing with matters of detail. Part i. is devoted mainly (1) to the unprecedented rainstorm of August 25-26 in East Anglia, the area being now extended to the whole of England and Wales. The rainfall exceeded 7.5 in. over about sixty-seven square miles, with a small patch where more than 8 in. fell, between Norwich and Brundall. The weight of precipitation over England and Wales is estimated at 4473 million tons. (2) the wettest summer in England and Wales. The rainfall was not exceeded during the last fifty years; in August the amount in south England was more than three times the average over large areas. The general rainfall for June-August was 78 per cent. above the normal. Part ii. deals with the rainfall for the year, and includes the observers' remarks on the weather, with heavy falls and monthly and seasonal rainfall, illustrated by maps. The year was a wet one; expressed in percentages the totals were: England, 123; Wales, 119; Scotland, 111; Ireland, 108; British Isles, 115. Part iii. contains the general tables of total rainfall at 5272 stations; maps of the river-divisions are now given, with the tables for each of the twenty-three large divisions of the country. We notice with regret that this useful and unique organisation is not yet self-supporting, and that the deficit has to be met by the director; further, that owing to the continual strain of the work, Dr. Mill has to take a complete temporary rest, during which time Mr. Mossman, of the Argentine Meteorological Office, will undertake the editorship of the publications.

- (1) *Die Süßwasser-Flora Deutschlands, Österreichs und der Schweiz.* Herausgegeben von Prof. A. Pascher. Hefts. 2, 3, 9, and 10. Price 5, 1.80, 1.50, 4 marks.
- (2) *Die Süßwasserfauna Deutschlands eine Exkursions-fauna.* Herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. Brauer. Heft. 14. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1912-13.) Price 7 marks.

THESE little monographs on the fresh-water flora and fauna of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland are issued under the general editorship of Prof. Pascher and Prof. Brauer respectively. The series on the fauna is issued in nineteen parts, extending from the Mammalia to the Hydrozoa; that on the flora in sixteen parts, of which the first twelve and part of the thirteenth deal mostly with micro-

scopic forms, the remainder with fungi, mosses, lichens, &c.; a volume on the Protozoa does not seem to be included. The volumes range in price from 1.50 marks to 7 marks, are purchasable separately, and are written by well-known authorities on the subjects of which they treat. Each volume commences with a general description of the particular group dealt with, methods of investigating and preserving the organisms, and a brief list of the principal works and papers on the subject, after which follows a systematic description of species, diagnoses of genera, &c.

(1) These volumes deal with several groups of flagellated micro-organisms (Heft. 2 and 3), including *Euglena*, diatoms (Heft. 10), and the Zygnemales (Heft. 9), *i.e.*, chlorophyll-green, cylindrical-celled algæ, such as *Spirogyra*. All the volumes seem very complete, and that on the diatoms should serve as a very useful handbook on this interesting group of micro-organisms.

(2) This volume deals with the Rotatoria and Gastrotricha. A good account is given of rotifer structure, and the diagnostic tables and descriptions of species are excellent.

All the volumes are profusely illustrated, *e.g.*, no fewer than 379 illustrations are allotted to the diatoms and 474 to the rotifers, many comprising two or more figures.

We believe that these series will be of the greatest service to the field-naturalist and others.

R. T. H.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

The Nature and Treatment of Cancer and Malaria.

MAY I ask your courtesy for a brief reference to the article by Dr. C. W. Saleeby on the International Medical Congress (NATURE, August 14, pp. 608-9)? Dr. Saleeby notes, that recent research is tending in the direction of the views advanced by me some few years ago. How long will yet elapse before these views as to the germinal origin, trophoblastic (asexual) nature, and enzyme or pancreatic treatment of cancer are "generally accepted" cannot be said. But whenever that time does arrive, mankind in general and medical mankind in particular will have no other refuge against the ravages of cancer than its treatment with genuine strong injections of trypsin and amylopsin. Scientifically, what evidences are there of this? In the first place, among others, three successful cases treated by Major Lamballe were described in my book on cancer, published two years ago. It is quite four years since the patients were treated. Two of them are certainly alive and well, and I believe that this is also so with the third. More recently, I have pointed out, in a paper on the occurrence of dextro-rotatory albumins in organic nature, noticed not long ago in your columns, that the asexual generations, such as the malaria parasite, &c., which induce disease, are the same in nature as cancer-cells, and have foretold their total destruction by the ferments, trypsin and amylopsin. In a memoir, which is about to be published, Major F. W. Lamballe,