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## BRITISH FISH PARASITES.

*The British Parasitic Copepoda.* By Dr. Thomas Scott and Andrew Scott. Vol. i. Pp. x+256. Vol. ii. Pp. xii+72 plates. (London: The Ray Society; Dulau and Co., Ltd., 1913.) Price 15s. net.

DR. THOMAS SCOTT has long been recognised as a leading authority on the smaller crustacea of the British seas, and his son, Mr. Andrew Scott, has also made important contributions to our knowledge of the same subject. It is fortunate, therefore, that the Ray Society has found these experienced investigators ready to undertake the preparation of a monograph on the British parasitic Copepoda, of which these two volumes, dealing with the species parasitic on fishes, form the first instalment.

The parasitic Copepoda have hitherto been somewhat neglected from a systematic and faunistic point of view. The student wishing to identify British specimens of fish-lice has had little to help him beyond Baird's "British Entomostraca," published by the Ray Society so long ago as 1850. The inadequacy of this help is shown by the fact that only thirty-four species of fish-parasites are described in Baird's volume, while the authors of the present monograph are able to record no fewer than one hundred and thirteen. The practical importance of a knowledge of the parasites of fishes in connection with fishery research hardly needs to be pointed out, and the careful descriptions and abundant illustrations now provided will prove a most useful foundation for future work in this department.

The authors have not attempted to deal seriously with the morphology and classification of the animals that they describe. For this course they can plead plenty of precedents, and it will meet with little condemnation from those zoologists of the younger generation who are so ready to proclaim the vanity of morphological research. It is likely, however, to cause the student some trouble when he finds, for instance, the term "fifth pair of thoracic feet" applied, in one family, to the appendages of the pre-genital somite, and transferred in the next family, without explanation or discussion, to those of the genital somite.

There are a number of minor blemishes throughout the work that might have been removed by more careful editing; specific names appearing for the first time are sometimes followed by the indication "sp. nov.," as on p. 202, sometimes not, as on p. 135; there is a lack of uniformity in the way in which references are made to the list of

literature at the end of vol. i., and some of the references are obviously wrong; and the generic name *Phyllothyreus* appears on p. 92 and elsewhere as *Phyllothreus*. The colouring of some of the plates is very diagrammatic, and adds neither to their beauty nor their usefulness.

From a faunistic point of view, however, the work is of the highest importance, and it is to be hoped that it will attract other students to the many complex problems presented by the life-histories and bionomics of these strangely-modified parasites.

## DISEASE AND ITS PREVENTION.

- (1) *Prevention and Control of Disease.* By Prof. F. Ramaley and Dr. C. E. Giffin. Pp. 386. (Boulder, Colo.: The University, 1913.)
- (2) *Practical Bacteriology, Microbiology and Serum Therapy (Medical and Veterinary).* A Text-book for Laboratory Use. By Dr. A. Besson. Translated and adapted from the fifth French edition by Prof. H. J. Hutchens, D.S.O. Pp. xxx+892. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1913.) Price 36s. net.
- (3) *A Monograph on Johne's Disease (Enteritis Chronica Pseudotuberculosis Bovis).* By F. W. Twort and G. L. Y. Ingram. Pp. xi+179+ix plates. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1913.) Price 6s. net.

(1) THE authors of this book have undertaken the task of describing, in language intelligible to the educated man without special medical training, the present state of knowledge and opinion respecting the origin, nature, and methods of preventing important diseases. In the earlier chapters the principles of bacteriology and the meaning of terms employed in describing the phenomena of immunity are detailed and explained. In later chapters most of the common diseases are passed in review and the duty of an intelligent citizen in the presence of any such disease succinctly stated.

The vastness of the field attempted to be covered and the necessity of avoiding technical discussion in a work of this kind must needs result in portions of it appearing incomplete to a specialist reader. Thus the student of hereditary influences might doubt whether the authors sufficiently recognise the importance of the soil in the genesis of disease, while the statistician will feel that the face value of various sets of figures quoted differs from their intrinsic worth. Such criticisms as these, however, could be directed against any similar book, and we have no doubt that the present work will satisfactorily achieve the aim its authors had in view. Some suggestions for