Nature—the rhythms of the heavenly bodies, and the rhythms of the earthly. Rhythm rules in the interstellar spaces, rhythm throbs through living beings. A study of these cosmic and vital rhythms, respectively, teaches us that the absolute time-interval between the "events" is not of the essence of rhythmicality; for there is as true a rhythm in the return of a comet or the repetition of an eclipse, which involves years, as there is in the rhythm of the beating heart where, between successive systoles, there are only a few fractions of a second.

There is much to interest the psychologist in Prof. Sonnenschein's treatise; while the physiologist can learn something in it about the physics of speech. It would not be true to say that this book is easy to read; no work involving so much detail about a not very familiar subject could possibly be easy to read: but it is an enduring monument to the patience, the scholarship, and the fine appreciation of music and poetry on the part of the former professor of Greek and Latin in the University of Birmingham.

D. FRASER HARRIS.

Our Bookshelf.

(1) *Fishes*. By David Starr Jordan. Revised edition. Pp. xv+773+18 plates. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Co., 1925.) 30*s*. net.

(2) *The Fishes of the British Isles, both Fresh Water and Salt*. By Dr. J. Travis Jenkins. (Wayside and Woodland Series.) Pp. vii+376+143 plates. (London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., Ltd., 1925.) 12*s*. 6*d*. net.

(1) D. JORDAN'S book on fishes, in two volumes, issued in 1904, was reviewed in NATURE soon after it appeared (vol. 72, p. 625, October 26, 1905). The present work, in one volume, does not call for an extended notice, as it differs from the former one only in the omission of certain chapters or sections of chapters. Of the thirty-five chapters in the first volume of the 1904 edition, eighteen have been left out entirely, and parts of four others; but nearly the whole of the second volume is retained. The book has evidently been reprinted from standing type and to describe it as a revised edition is misleading. There is one new paragraph (p. 184) inserted because the fitting together of parts of two chapters of the original book left a space that had to be filled; this paragraph refers to the recent discovery of a rudimentary sixth gill-arch in Heterodontus, and includes the statement that "the presence of five species in the Squalidae perhaps indicates affinity with Heterodontus"; here "five species" should obviously be "fin-spines."

(2) There is no modern work on British fishes, and Dr. Jenkins has attempted to supply this need by producing what is described as a handy pocket volume, dealing with the characteristics and habits of British fishes, both fresh-water and salt. The book is illustrated by so many as 143 plates, nearly half of which are coloured; most of the coloured representations of marine fish are reproduced from Smitt's "Scandinavian Fishes," and most of those of the fresh-water species from Grote, Vogt and Hofer's "Fresh-water Fishes of Central Europe." A number of the uncoloured figures are taken from Day's "Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland"; some of these are good and some rather poor, for although all the plates in this work were inscribed as drawn by Day, he employed two lithographers, one of whom was far superior to the other.

With the aid of the illustrations, and of the short diagnoses given by the author, the owner of Dr. Jenkins's book should be able to identify any fish he is likely to catch in British waters; having done so, he will find a certain amount of information about it, which may or may not include what he wants to know, as the treatment of the different species is rather unequal. In general it is the important food-fishes, such as the herring, cod, and plaice, that are most fully dealt with, and it is in his account of these that the author is most convincing.

The classification is nearly that of Günther's Catalogue; it is a little surprising to find a modern work on fishes beginning with the perch and ending with the Chimæridæ: these, we are told, "connect the cartilaginous fishes (Sharks and Rays) with the Ganoids (Sturgeons)." Even in the arrangement of the species there is often no regard to relationships; for example, the coal-fish and pollack are separated by the whiting, and the skate and the long-nosed skate by the bottle-nosed ray. This is, in our opinion, the most serious defect of the book. C. T. R.

Reports of the Progress of Applied Chemistry. Issued by the Society of Chemical Industry. Vol. 9, 1924. Pp. 700. (London: Society of Chemical Industry, 1925.) 7*s*. 6*d*.; to non-members, 12*s*. 6*d*.

THE ninth volume of these reports follows closely on the lines of preceding issues; it contains eighty more pages than the report for 1923; a report on the non-ferrous metals is not included, but that on photographic materials and processes makes a welcome reappearance. The occurrence of such slight changes suggests that, on occasion, nothing is lost by making a report cover a longer period than one year: space is saved, and the writer has a better chance to delineate the wood as well as the trees. Although the mass of material dealt with in each report is always great, the actual progress achieved is by no means always proportionate. In reading these reports, one is struck by the prodigious activity of those who are working to harness chemistry to industrial uses—in the present report, well over 3000 names appear in the name-index—and for this reason it is obviously impossible to give more than a cursory survey of most of the subjects treated. If the present increase in output continues, the annual volume will soon become unwieldy, and something in the nature of a quinquennial revaluation and digest will be called for; but the work of condensation would not be easy, as writers of the calibre of Hazlitt (who condensed seven volumes of Tucker's "Light of Nature Pursued" into one) are not common in the chemical profession. On the whole, it would appear better to issue such summaries in the form of monographs—a practice which has found favour in Germany.

No serious student of chemical technology can fail