

the book, since records are brought down to the year of publication. Its compactness in a single volume, its accurate, full and readable descriptions, and its definitive illustrations of every species, make this the most suitable of British bird books for the ordinary ornithologist and naturalist.

(2) Island faunas offer many points of interest to the naturalist, and although the viability of birds discounts the significance of many species, there remains a substratum of 'residents' which illustrate, more clearly than can be done on the mainland, the history of the fauna. Mr. McWilliam fully appreciates this significance, and in his historical introduction and remarks about several species, points out how the island of Bute has suffered a gradual reduction. In all, 168 species have been recorded from this limited area, and a general survey shows that the avifauna is closely comparable with that of the mainland, although island life has sometimes impressed new habits. Thus of rooks, jackdaws, and starlings, it is noted that they make daily migrations to the mainland over the Firth of Clyde, setting out in the morning and returning at dusk, notwithstanding that Bute itself apparently contains abundance of suitable feeding ground. It is estimated that in the autumn the sixty square miles of the island may contain as many as 400,000 birds.

*A Treatise on the British Freshwater Algæ, in which are included all the Pigmented Protophyta hitherto found in British Freshwaters.* By the late Prof. G. S. West. New and revised edition, in great part rewritten by Prof. F. E. Fritsch. Pp. xviii + 534. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1927.) 21s. net.

MORE than twenty years have elapsed since the late G. S. West published his "British Freshwater Algæ." The edition was soon exhausted, and the lack of a similar volume has since been acutely realised. Prof. Fritsch has, therefore, done botanists in general a very real service in undertaking a revision of the earlier work. He has successfully tried to retain the character of the original volume, but the vast increase in every branch of our knowledge of the algæ has necessitated the addition of an enormous mass of material, and the result is an entirely new work, which has gained also an added personality.

Point is given to the general treatment of algal morphology in the emphasis laid on the development of parallel stages of morphological complexity in widely separated groups, a useful chart being given in illustration. The chief changes in arrangement occur in the Isokontæ. The Cladophorales and Sphæropleales are now removed from the Siphonales and grouped with Ulothricales, presumably on account of their metabolic similarity. The treatment of the Chlorococcales follows that of Brunnthaler in distinguishing Autospurinæ and Zoospurinæ. A considerable number of flagellate forms are added, these being grouped along with the appropriate coccoid and filamentous forms. The Peridineæ are also now included. No fresh-

water Phæophyceæ are recognised, the forms which were formerly described here having been more suitably transferred to the Chrysophyceæ.

The figures include one, at least, of every genus. Generic keys are given, and indications of the characters of at least the commoner species, while the valuable indications as to habitat have been retained and amplified. The book will be of great value not only to the algologist, but also to the teaching botanist, the student, and the amateur naturalist.

W. H. P.

*Foremanship Training.* By Lieut.-Col. Hugo Diemer. Pp. viii + 230. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.; London: McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., 1927.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE *flair* for business which is so typical of Americans is peculiarly noticeable in their methodical consideration of the problem, how to get the most effect out of men and materials. This does not imply that the American seeks to take advantage of his fellow-citizens; it is rather that he desires to use human effort (as he strives to use mechanical effort) to the last ounce of advantage, so that the end in view may be achieved in the most practically economical way. Col. Hugo Diemer's treatise upon foremanship training considers one—and a very important—aspect of this urge for maximum effect. In a series of fourteen chapters he discusses that responsible cog in the machine, the foreman, with the view of making evident the necessity for training him so as to be, in fact, something more than a mere part of a machine—to be a man with intelligent general grasp of the whole of the work involved, and having a human faculty for bringing out what is best in the employés over whom he has to exercise a measure of control. The author drives home his arguments with a skill that is beyond dispute.

P. L. M.

*A Book of Words: Selections from Speeches and Addresses delivered between 1906 and 1927.* By Rudyard Kipling. Pp. vii + 299. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1928.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE addresses which compose the "Book of Words" were delivered in many lands to varied audiences through a period covering almost a quarter of a century. Occasional speeches, however, especially when delivered in lighter vein, only have value outside the circumstances in which they are made when they contain, hidden it may be by phraseology peculiar to the occasion, ideas of general interest. Such, in a measure, are these speeches. Almost every conceivable theme is touched upon from "The Spirit of the Navy" to the "Virtue of France," from "Independence" to the "Handicaps of Letters." Here and there, at greater length, occur other types of topics such as the contribution of prehistoric man to modern military practice and naval science, in which imagination and a kindly regard for half truths have resulted in charming narratives. The delight of the book is in the reading.