

often it merely adds more inadequately described species to the already long list of such encumbrances. We feel sure that if the contents of this book be taken seriously and the more potent of the suggestions acted upon, some of those who describe new species of insects will return to their work with a higher ideal, with more refined technique, and, perhaps, with a greater sense of responsibility.

*Scoliodon (the Common Shark of the Indian Seas).*

By E. Muthammah Thillayampalam. (The Indian Zoological Memoirs on Indian Animal Types, 2.) Pp. xi + 116 (10 plates). (Lucknow: The University, 1928.) 2.8 rupees; 3s. 6d.

THERE are few publications for students dealing in detail with the structure and development of common Indian animals, and a committee of Indian zoologists is now issuing a series of memoirs to rectify this. Prof. Bahl wrote the first on the earthworm, and set a good standard which is well maintained in the present publication. The detailed study of types is necessary to teach accurate observation, and we trust that these memoirs will become a regular feature of the teaching of zoology in India. Surely the bibliography should be complete or consist merely of a few references to publications generally available in universities. We prefer, where possible, names or letters on drawings in preference to numbers, which few students will struggle to follow throughout. Yellow should never be used on any figure intended to be studied by artificial light.

*Exercitatio Anatomica de Motu Cordis et Sanguinis in Animalibus.* By Dr. William Harvey. With an English translation and Annotations by Prof. Chauncey D. Leake. (Tercentennial edition.) Pp. vii + 74 + 154 + 8 plates. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 1928.) 16s. net.

THIS fine volume contains a facsimile of the original Latin edition published by Harvey at the age of fifty in 1628, followed by a free translation by Prof. Leake, who holds the chair of pharmacology in the University of California. We learn from the postscript that this is the third attempt to render Harvey's classic into current English idiom, the first being the work of an anonymous author in 1653, and the second the stilted and involved version of Dr. Robert Willis, who made a translation for the Sydenham Society in 1847.

Prof. Leake has added many instructive footnotes to his translation in order to illustrate the relation of Harvey's work to our modern knowledge of cardiac function.

The book contains two portraits of Harvey and a facsimile of his first note on the circulation made in 1616.

*An Introduction to Biophysics.* By Prof. David Burns. Second edition. Pp. xix + 580. (London: J. and A. Churchill, 1929.) 25s. net.

THE second edition of this text-book has been considerably enlarged, revised, and in places re-written. A new chapter on soaps and emulsions has been

added; the sections on surface tension, general receptors, ear, eye, voice, and limb movements have been extensively revised. The illustrative experiments which form a separate section have also been largely rewritten as the result of several years' experience in the teaching of physiology.

For those who are unacquainted with Prof. Burns's work, it may be described as physical physiology or physiology from the point of view of mechanics and physical chemistry. Thus it includes, although in greater detail, much that is to be found in the standard text-books on this subject, but the problems are approached at a different angle. Both from the theoretical and the practical aspects the book will be of value to teachers and to advanced students, since it provides under a single cover a quantity of information which can only be found scattered through the literature. The illustrative experiments provide a good introduction to physical chemistry.

*Rhythmische Phänomene der Erdoberfläche.* Von Henning Kaufmann. Pp. v + 347. (Braunschweig: Friedr. Vieweg und Sohn A.-G., 1929.) 14 gold marks.

ON the surface of contact of two different media, such as air and water or water and sand, various rhythmic forms are produced when there is relative movement. The forms vary widely in kind and order of magnitude, and include sand dunes, ripple-marks, and river meanders. This book is devoted to a systematic account of the phenomena involved and the morphological features produced, and is useful as a compilation of observations and hypotheses, and as a bibliography of the subject. Unfortunately the physical treatment is weak and no mathematical discussion is presented. Although the book does not add any original contribution to the theoretical aspects of the rhythmic and periodic phenomena of geology, it will nevertheless serve a valuable purpose in providing geologists, geographers, and engineers with a most convenient summary of what is already known in a somewhat neglected field of investigation. The author deserves our gratitude, if only for his enterprise in tidying up a very scattered subject.

*Wave Mechanics: being one Aspect of the New Quantum Theory.* By Dr. H. T. Flint. (Methuen's Monographs on Physical Subjects.) Pp. ix + 117. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1929.) 3s. 6d. net.

THIS little book fills a definite gap in the literature of wave mechanics in that it gives in small compass a clear mathematical account of the variation principles of dynamics and optics, the analogy which points the way to mechanical waves, the nature of the problem and its solution. This may seem an ambitious task, but by confining himself to the simplest cases and by adopting a proper mathematical formulation, Dr. H. T. Flint has succeeded in producing an essay which is exact and intelligible. The bibliography on p. 113 reveals the identity of a person whose name is spelt Shroedinger in the preface and throughout the book.