

that they combine holophytic with holozoic nutrition and therefore are claimed by both botanist and zoologist. Some apparently feed exclusively as plants, others as animals, but many feed in both ways. The larger naked forms engulf others of their kind, as well as diatoms and other small prey. The presence of a large eye with well-developed lens in some of these and nematocysts in *Polykrikos* and others give a special interest to these unarmoured forms. Here we find chain formation both in the naked and armoured species, and the beginning of a multicellular state in which individuals are permanently fused and the nuclei are fewer in number than the cells themselves. There are many species known from the North Sea and Baltic, but not so many as there are in the Channel, possibly because the region has not been worked so much for these creatures. All species are well figured and they are easy to identify. We note the absence of *Noctiluca*, which is treated separately in another part of this publication.

Dr. Krumbach in his account of the Scyphozoa (Part 3.d) shows that of the five orders three are represented here—the Lucernariida with four genera and five species, the Semæostomeæ with four genera and four species, and the Rhizostomeæ with one genus and one species. Structure, feeding, and reproduction are fully dealt with, and the author gives a very clear description of the various members of the Scyphozoa, which is well illustrated and up to date.

- (1) *British Prime Ministers of the Nineteenth Century*. By Prof. F. J. C. Hearnshaw. (Benn's Sixpenny Library.) Pp. 80. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd., 1930.) 6d.
- (2) *Daily Life in Parliament*. By H. Snell. (Routledge Introductions to Modern Knowledge.) Pp. 74. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1930.) 6d. net.
- (3) *Sinon: or The Future of Politics*. By E. A. Mowrer. (To-day and To-morrow Series.) Pp. 96. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd., 1930.) 2s. 6d. net.

THESE books may suitably receive notice within one paragraph, being respectively concerned with political life of the past, the present, and the future. Dr. Hearnshaw deals succinctly, but engagingly, with the succession of premiers who guided the Empire's fortunes during a period commencing with Addington and concluding with Lord Salisbury, coincident with the closing of the Victorian era. Mr. Snell presents a description of the parliament of to-day, sufficiently realistic to be welcome. Mr. Mowrer's contribution is necessarily on less secure ground, as it deals in surmises, based, it is true, upon a logical progression from existing facts and tendencies towards a conceivable future. His remarks are cogent and well-balanced. "We cannot eliminate natural inequality", "Standardised minds are a relapse of the race into the tribe", "Under a rational system failure to vote would be penalised". The author's remarks upon Russia and Italy are worthy of close attention. Perhaps not unreasonably, he is somewhat pessimistic—

"Not for nothing was Sinon reputed the son of that Sisyphus condemned to perpetual stone-(or was it log-) rolling", "What is history but one long series of reforms that have failed?" For the world as a whole, Mr. Mowrer foreshadows internationalism as the over-riding government of to-morrow. P. L. M.

*Couleurs (étude physique) et colorimétrie: Conférence faite au Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers le 7 mai 1930*. Par Prof. P. Fleury. (Conférences d'actualités scientifiques et industrielles, 12.) Pp. 34. (Paris: Hermann et Cie, 1930.) 5 francs.

IN this lecture, the author points out the difficulties which the accurate specification of colour encounters owing to the physiological nature of the colour sensation. He explains how a colour may be specified by the wave-length of its dominant radiation, its luminous flux, and its coefficient of purity, or alternatively by the trichromatic method, which specifies the luminous flux of each of three standard wave-lengths, which together produce the colour sensation in question. When the sensitivity curves of each of the three sensory elements of the normal eye to light of different wave-lengths are known, one method of specification may be converted into the other. The author describes the principles on which modern colorimeters are constructed, and states that those based on the trichromatic system are the simplest and suffice for many purposes. He believes, however, that for accurate work a combination of a spectrophotometer and a colorimeter on the lines of the instruments of Nutting and of Priest is necessary. He hopes that a laboratory for the study of colorimetry will be established in France which will compare with those already at work in the United States, in Great Britain, and in Germany.

*Simple Geological Structures: a Series of Notes and Map Exercises*. By John I. Platt and John Challinor. Pp. 56. (London: Thomas Murby and Co.; New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1930.) 3s. 6d. net.

IN this little book, which is of an elementary character, beginners are introduced to the three-dimensional conception of geology, a knowledge of which is essential to progress in the science. The maps and sections figured, and the accompanying notes, are simple and straightforward. So far as they go, they serve their purpose admirably. A more extensive and varied use might, with advantage, have been made of the names of the major divisions of the geological succession. In this way the student would, incidentally, be assisted in acquiring familiarity with their correct order of superposition. In practice, geological maps are primarily constructed to show age-formational divisions rather than lithological bands.

The illustrations represent ideal cases, and users of the book would do well to realise, as indeed the authors suggest in their preface, that in Nature the facts are seldom either so simple or so obvious.