

and Related Alkylating Agents": the second, by J. F. Henderson and H. G. Mandel, of Washington, is entitled "Purine and Pyrimidine Antimetabolites in Cancer Chemotherapy".

Although of great importance, the trend of the articles in this volume is away from the more popular 'synaptic pharmacology' and, because of this, it might not appeal to so large a number of readers as the first.

W. C. BOWMAN

### Dolphins

By Antony Alpers. Pp. 251+12 illustrations. Second edition. (London: John Murray, 1963.) 25s.

**D**URING the past decade, dolphins have been the subject of intense research within the province of underwater physiology; but more recently the behavioural patterns of captive animals have attracted the attention of an increasing body of animal psychologists. The first international symposium on "Cetacean Research", held at Washington D.C. in August, 1963, was almost entirely devoted to the examination of dolphins and it is not surprising, therefore, that Alpers had coined the new word 'delphinology' to distinguish this branch of natural history from that of cetology, the study of whales generally.

*Dolphins* is a greatly enlarged edition of the author's previous work, *A Book of Dolphins*, published in 1960. The general theme is that, in the light of modern knowledge, most of the fabulous tales of the friendly association of man and dolphin which abound in classical literature might well be true. To demonstrate this, he reviews, with considerable erudition, the legendary stories of the Greeks and Romans and shows that, from the anatomical and physiological points of view, the dolphin is well equipped to perform the feats ascribed to it by the ancients. He directs attention to the numerous biological and psychological observations which have been made on captive dolphins in marine aquaria in the United States, and correlates these with information about commensalism between wild dolphins and fishermen in various parts of the world. Finally, the author demonstrates the close parallel between legend and apparently well-authenticated accounts of the rescue of humans from drowning.

In a chapter dealing with modern information about the voluntary association of dolphins with man, Alpers gives a full account of the behaviour of a bottle-nosed dolphin with bathers at Opononi, New Zealand, and of the world-renowned 'Pelorus Jack'. Throughout most of the book the author writes with obvious dedication, and there are passages full of poetic and mystic beauty which should have a special appeal to the young reader. It is the more surprising, therefore, that he has been able to deal objectively with the more anthropomorphic attitude of some observers and has shown such skill in avoiding bias about scientific matters which are highly controversial.

The great advantage which this book enjoys over the previous edition is that it contains a chronological history of 'delphinology' since classical times and an extensive bibliography.

P. E. PURVES

### Les Libellules du Québec

Par Adrien Robert. (Ministère du Tourisme de la Chasse et de la Pêche, Service de la Faune, Bulletin No. 1.) Pp. viii+223. (Québec: Ministère de la Chasse et des Pêcheries, 1963.) n.p.

**T**HIS hand-book is primarily intended for amateur naturalists, and has as its purpose to enable them to identify the dragonflies occurring in the Province of Quebec, without recourse to the larger works on the Odonata of North America, which tend to assume a greater knowledge of entomology than the average naturalist possesses. The first fifty pages deal with the life and structure of the Odonata and their larvæ, their enemies, and the place the Odonata fill in the general food-chain. This latter feature is well illustrated by two line-diagrams.

The second part of the work deals with the identification of the adults and consists of well-illustrated keys, preceded by an explanation of the method of using them. Throughout the keys, the text is on the left-hand page, with the relevant illustrations on the facing page. The third main part of the work consists of ecological notes on the various species recorded from Quebec, a list of bibliographic references and an index.

The numerous illustrations are in line and half-tone. The line-drawings are mostly excellent and are well annotated to direct attention to the more important characters. The half-tone illustrations of habitats are less satisfactory, the shadows being heavy and featureless. The book should, however, prove very useful to the group of naturalists for which it is intended, and should help to foster interest in the Odonata, a group which tends to be relatively neglected, since their brilliant colours are less easy to preserve for the cabinet than those of the Lepidoptera.

D. E. KIMMINS

### Special Materials in the Library

Edited by J. Burkett and T. S. Morgan. (A Series of 14 Lectures held at the Library Association and Aslib Headquarters, January 17th to April 11th, 1962, organized by the Department of Librarianship, North-Western Polytechnic, London.) Pp. ix+179. (London: The Library Association, 1963.) 40s. (L. A. members, 30s.)

**T**HE lectures comprising this book deal with materials the handling of which in a library calls for special methods and sometimes new approaches. They include Government publications, foreign literature (the treatment of which is the least satisfactory), report and trade literature, local history and maps, music and recordings, audio-visual materials and microtexts. Some of the topics have been discussed over the years at Aslib Conferences, but in this book the information is brought together and made up to date, and the subjects are expanded with the authority and experience of such experts in their fields as L. L. Arden, V. Britten, G. R. Crone, B. Agard Evans, C. H. Gibbs-Smith, D. Grenfell, J. H. Davies, K. A. Mallaber, and R. C. Wright. The treatment is factual and realistic. Most of the lectures are provided with ample bibliographical references, and there is an adequate index to the whole volume. While the lectures are addressed particularly to the librarian, they have the user's needs especially in mind, and some general readers will be grateful for the guidance given on how to obtain and handle particular classes of material, or on the choice of equipment, such as microfilm readers. Each lecture is followed by a short summary giving the main points of the discussion at the Conference.

R. BRIGHTMAN

### The Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac for the Year 1964

Pp. xviii+466. (Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1963.) Rs. 14.00 n.p.; 22s.

**T**HIS is the seventh year of publication of the *Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac*, which contains material selected from similar publications of Western countries and additional material designed primarily for Indian users. The additional material includes the apparent geocentric longitudes and latitudes of the planets, moonrise, moonset, sunrise and sunset for some Indian cities, heliacal rising and setting of the five visible planets, and a long section on the Indian calendar. The "Explanation" at the end of the volume is a very readable portion of the book, interesting features including the method of computations of eclipses and details of the assumptions underlying the calendar calculations. The volume is well produced and is making an important contribution towards modernizing the indigenous almanacs published in various parts of India.

R. H. GARSTANG