

CUTHBERT, MABEL JAUQUES. *How to Know the Spring Flowers*. William C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa. 168 pp. 1943. Spiral binding, \$1.50; cloth binding, \$2.50.

This volume of the Pictured-Key Nature Book Series is a key for determining the more common spring flowers. It also has many suggestions and aids for their study. There are over three hundred fifty species listed and briefly described. Three hundred eighty-one drawings including the habit sketch, the enlarged flower, and other distinguishing features are given for the species described in the keys. Common names as well as scientific names are given. A check list of species in their logical order by families is included in the back of the book. There is an index and illustrated glossary. Eighteen pages of interesting topics such as (1) Plant Parts and What They Do, (2) Suggestions for Plant Projects, and (3) How to Make a Herbarium are also for the user's reference and enjoyment. Types of inflorescence, flower parts, leaf shapes, and arrangements are illustrated.

This book is especially recommended for the non-professional nature lover as well as the botanist's field guide.

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COKER, R. E. *The Great and Wide Sea*. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. xvii + 325 pp. 91 plates. 1947. \$5.00.

The author, a teacher of aquatic biology, has briefly and concisely, but not too technically presented natural phenomena characteristic of the sea as an environment for living organisms. He has drawn freely from the literature, using materials from authoritative sources, and has correlated the historical geographical, geological, physical, chemical and geological interrelationships in such a manner as to be comprehensible for the average reader. A reader consulting the original papers would be obliged to spend many months searching to obtain the information summarized in this brief volume.

The book is divided into three parts: (I) History and Geography, (II) Chemistry and

Physics, and (III) Life in the Sea. In part one the history of oceanography in the United States and Canada, the interrelationships of the ocean depths and topographies and of the sea and land are discussed. Part two considers the sea as a solution, its physical and chemical properties, its bottom deposits, its motion, and its relation to solar radiation. The general life of the sea, plankton, benthos and nekton, and their relations to each other in such a dynamic body as the sea are enumerated in part three.

Each chapter is concluded with a brief summary in which the important aspects of the chapter are enumerated. Importance is placed upon common names of organisms with the scientific names occurring parenthetically. Illustrations are numerous and function to show the equipment, methods and techniques utilized by the various oceanographic stations. There is an index and a selected bibliography, that add materially to the value of the book. The extreme ease with which the book reads makes it valuable for both the technical and nontechnical reader. The biology teacher should find the book an asset to his library and an extremely reliable source for principles of aquatic biology presented in an unusually interesting manner.

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HOGBEN, LANCELOT. *An Introduction to Mathematical Genetics*. W. W. Norton & Co., New York. xii + 260 pp. 1946. \$5.00.

In a brief Foreword the author of this book states his aim, as follows: "Since the pioneer work of Jennings on systems of mating, there has been a steady output of publications elucidating the statistical implications of the theory of the gene. Theoretical investigations of this sort have practical applications in agriculture and furnish the only satisfactory basis for a scientific approach to the problems of human inheritance. So they are of general interest to all students of genetics. To many students of genetics the original sources are still a closed book, because the mathematical reasoning relies on