

locked child can learn much about the ocean world as he reads; in fact, he may be encouraged to view more familiar communities of living things in a new and excitingly different way. The author's prose borders on poetry. The sights, sounds, and smells of the sea are communicated in every line. The book raises questions that should make the reader eager to find the answers and, further, to experience the sea in a uniquely personal way. For example: "Have you every really *looked* at sand? How would you describe it? . . . Have you every listened to sand? Put your ear down next to it. What are the different sounds? . . . Put your face next to the dry sand. Do you feel the sun's heat reflecting from it?"

Each chapter, from sand to seaweed to fiddler crabs, offers interesting information and intriguing suggestions for inquiries and observations. Every child deserves a chance to share in knowing the sea. William Stephens has issued an invitation few children will decline.

Faith Hickman
University of Colorado; BSCS
Boulder

AUSTRALIAN INSECTS IN COLOUR, by Anthony Healy and Courteney Smithers. 1971, Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vt. 112 p. \$7.50 (hardback).

The photographs in this little volume are excellent. Each is of a live specimen, with the exception of the flea. The text is authoritative and interesting. Advanced-elementary and junior-high-school readers will learn much about the behavior of insects, including mating habits, adaptations, habitats, feeding habits, and community behavior. The student interested in ecology will discover unique insect adaptations in behavior, coloration, and predator-prey relationships. The success of insects on this planet—more than three quarters of all the species of animals are insects—should encourage children to learn more about them.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

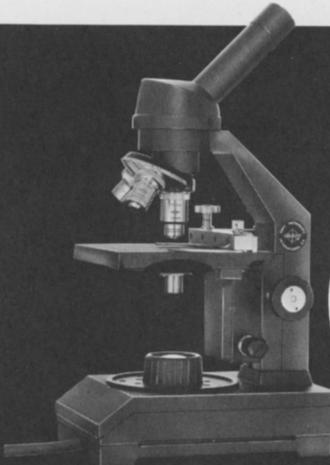
LIFE IN A LOG, by George I. Schwartz and Bernice S. Schwartz. 1972. Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y. 140 p. \$5.95.

The authors have captured in print some of the excitement they feel as they explore the woods near their home. *Life in a Log*, which grew out of those explorations, was written for the Schwartzes' grandchildren. The book is interesting and perhaps unique: a book devoted almost entirely to logs and their inhabitants.

How a seed becomes a tree and how the tree grows are explained in the first chapter. The second chapter focuses on the process of producing logs; that is,

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on the death of trees. Wounds, disease, and fungi are discussed. In the third and fourth chapters a variety of wood- and cellulose-feeders are identified, along with predators, parasites, and scavengers: termite, pill bug, honey fungus, wireworm, puffball fungus, slime mold, ichneumon fly, millipede, centipede, slug, carpenter ant, earthworm, salamander, woodpecker, and a host of beetles. The log as a place to live is the theme of the fifth chapter, which includes examples of "biologic clocks." The sixth chapter considers the procession of life in logs during the stages of decomposition. Lichens are described, and their sensitivity to air

pollution is discussed. Appendices suggest student investigations of log inhabitants and list books that contain color illustrations to help in the identification of organisms.

The book contains numerous drawings and photographs. The reader is made aware of the fact that much remains to be learned about the ecology of decomposing logs and that the amateur can help; but he is cautioned about unnecessarily disturbing log communities. Photography is suggested as an alternative to collecting. The writing is sometimes teleologic, and in several places too many facts are presented too quickly. The book contains some repe-

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Edited by
Arnold B. Grobman

Teachers and students of life sciences are forced to consider the social implications of biology. The important issues can not be avoided and deserve a full and balanced discussion.

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tion, and a few of the facts are questionable.

I recommend this book highly for upper-elementary and lower-secondary students. It should be useful as supplementary reading in biology classes.

Thomas P. Evans
Oregon State University
Corvallis

THE LONG VOYAGE: THE LIFE-CYCLE OF A GREEN TURTLE, by Alvin and Virginia Silverstein. 1972. Frederick Warne & Co., New York. 48 p. \$3.95.

Allen Eitzen's charming and unusual illustrations provide the only bright spots in this otherwise disappointing and misleading story for children. The book falls far short of either literary or scientific excellence. Most disturbing is the fact that the book fails to convey any sense of the beauty of nature's balance or of the challenge to man to understand that balance.

The vehicle is a familiar one: a boy in an adventure-packed situation. The boy accompanies his father and a biologic research team to Ascension Island to conduct studies of the migration and reproduction of the green turtle. An adequate, if teleologic, description of migration and egg-laying behavior is given, along with a summary of the team's research design and methods. But "good science" is soon lost. Do passages such as the following accurately represent what we hope our children and students will come to understand about predator-prey relationships?

Three days after the storm, the group of turtles was attacked by a school of sharks. Viciously they slashed at the turtles with their sharp, knife-like teeth, tearing at them and gobbling them down. . . . The young turtles tried to escape from the sharks. . . .

The teleology of such passages is misleading enough, without the added insult of the stereotype of predators as vicious, gobbling monsters.

The final blow to scientific sanity is dealt in a vivid, shocking scene. Following the newly-hatched turtles across the ocean toward Brazil, the members of the research team decided to intervene with guns, taking the side of the "innocent" baby turtles against the "vicious" sharks:

A sharp shot rang out, and then another and another. The sharks' bodies thrashed violently in the water, and the ocean was stained with blood. Greedily, the remaining sharks ripped into their dead companions, and the turtles swiftly swam away.

Such passages are colorful and perhaps entertaining for children, but they misrepresent the workings of the natural

world. They engender misunderstanding of important ecologic principles.

It seems unfortunate that such contrivances of plot have spoiled a book that could have communicated so much about an exciting matter of current investigation.

Faith Hickman
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Books Received

STRUCTURE OF HUMAN POPULATIONS, ed. by G. A. Harrison and A. J. Boyce. 1972. Oxford University Press, New York. 447 p. \$24.00 hardback, \$10.25 softback.

ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY OF MARINE ANIMALS, by Winona B. Vernberg and F. John Vernberg. 1972. Springer-Verlag, New York. 346 p. \$19.80.

BIOMATHEMATICS, VOL. 2: INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICS FOR LIFE SCIENTISTS, by Edward Batschelet. 1971. Springer-Verlag, New York. 495 p. \$15.60.

BIRD AMBULANCE, by Arline Thomas. 1972. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 131 p. \$2.65.

ISOTOPES AND RADIATION IN BIOLOGY, by C. C. Thornburn. 1972. Halsted Press, New York. 287 p. \$11.75.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR, by John Paul Scott. 2nd ed., 1972. University of Chicago Press. 281 p. \$12.50 hardback, \$3.25 softback.

BEGINNER'S HANDBOOK IN BIOLOGICAL ELECTRON MICROSCOPY, by Brenda S. Weakly. 1972. Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore. 228 p. \$11.50.

INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS, by Henry L. Alder and Edward B. Roessler. 5th ed., 1972. W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco. 373 p. \$9.00.

EXPLORING A CORAL REEF, by Robert F. Burgess. 1972. Macmillan Co., New York. 56 p. \$4.95.

PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES IN PLANT VIROLOGY, ed. by Clarence I. Kado and Hari O. Agrawal. 1972. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York. 672 p. \$29.50.

IS THIS A BABY DINOSAUR? AND OTHER SCIENCE PICTURE-PUZZLES, by Millicent E. Selsam. 1971. Harper & Row, Inc., New York. 32 p. \$3.95.

OUTLINES OF BIOCHEMISTRY, by E. E. Conn and P. K. Stumpf. 3rd ed., 1972. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 535 p. \$12.50.

ADVANCES IN EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY, VOL. 26: PHARMACOLOGICAL CONTROL OF LIQUID METABOLISM, ed. by William L. Holmes, Rudolfo Paoletti, and David Kritchevsky. 1972. Plenum Press, New York. 359 p. \$22.50.

SEAHORSE, by Robert A. Morris. 1972. Harper & Row, Inc., New York. 60 p. \$2.50.

LECTURES ON DEVELOPMENTAL PHYSIOLOGY, by Alfred Kuhn. 2nd ed., 1971. 535 p. \$19.60.