

the "pericardium [from which the heart itself is produced] and epicardium originate as outgrowths from the archenteron." Comparing the two statements such a reader *might* conclude that the first statement quoted means that the pericardial sac and its invagination are *embedded in* mesoblast as their formation proceeds, but he would also be justified in understanding the one statement to mean that the pericardial sac and hence the heart are of mesoblastic origin, while the other means that they are of hypoblastic origin.

Again the statement (page 10) that the cavity of the pericardium and epicardium 'may be regarded as coelomic spaces' is not exactly clear when compared with the statement made a few lines below on the same page, that the cavities of the renal vesicles and gonads are sometimes interpreted as being formed 'by a splitting of the mesoblast (*coelomic*).'

But the book is an admirable résumé of our knowledge of a typical ascidian, and if the succeeding numbers are equally satisfactory, the series cannot fail to be a potent factor in promoting the study of natural history not only in Great Britain, but as well beyond its borders.

It is unfortunate that the volumes could not be bound a little more securely, for they will hardly withstand the rough usage which they are pretty sure to receive as laboratory guides. If this could not be done without increasing the price, and if the price could not be increased even by a small amount, then it seems to me that it would be better to cut down the text and illustrations, particularly the former, somewhat, and apply the saving in expense thereby to making the binding better.

WM. E. RITTER.

GENERAL.

A LIMITED number of the reports of the University Geological Survey of Kansas still remain for distribution among persons who are interested in mining and geology. The publications to date include five volumes bound in cloth, and two annual reports on the Mineral Resources of Kansas bound in paper. All these may be had for the asking, except Vol. I., the supply of which is entirely exhausted. Persons writing for any or all of the reports

should enclose the necessary postage, or request that they be sent by express. The volumes are: Vol. II., General Geology of Western Kansas, postage 26 cents; Vol. III., a Special Report on Coal, postage 28 cents; Vol. IV., Paleontology of the Upper Cretaceous, postage 32 cents; Vol. V., A Special Report on Gypsum and Gypsum Cement Plasters, postage 16 cents; Annual Report of Mineral Resources of Kansas for 1897, postage 4 cents; Annual Report on the Mineral Resources of Kansas for 1898, postage 7 cents.

MESSRS. D. APPLETON & COMPANY have nearly ready for publication *The International Geography*. Seventy authors have collaborated in its production, including the leading geographers and travelers of Europe and America. The work has been planned and edited by Dr. H. R. Mill, who also wrote the chapter on the United Kingdom. Among the authors are Professor W. M. Davis (The United States), Dr. Fridtjof Nansen (Arctic Regions), Professor A. Kirchhoff (German Empire), Mr. F. C. Selous (Rhodesia), Professors de Lapparent and Raveneau (France), Sir Clements Markham, F. R. S. (Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru), Sir John Murray, F. R. S. (Antarctic Regions), Count Pfeil (German Colonies), Mr. James Bryce, M. P. (The Boer Republics), Sir H. H. Johnston, the late Sir Lambert Playfair, Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Sir Martin Conway, Sir George S. Robertson, Sir William MacGregor, Sir Charles Wilson, F. R. S., the Hon. D. W. Carnegie, Mrs. Bishop, Dr. A. M. W. Downing, F. R. S., Dr. J. Scott Keltie, and Mr. G. G. Chisholm. The book is illustrated by nearly five hundred maps and diagrams which have been specially prepared.

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