

judiciously selected, well printed, and give one the impression of illustrating the text rather than of adorning the book. This is not the case with all recent books, in some of which one suspects that pretty pictures have been used to add to the attractiveness of the pages, with only remote reference to the text.

We are told in the preface that the chief object of this book is 'to disseminate knowledge of the destructive parasites of the useful plants of Minnesota, to assist all concerned in the cultivation of plants, to a more intelligent and thorough understanding of the habits of these parasites, and to point out established methods of combating such diseases.' In carrying out this plan, the author gives about one half of the book to a general discussion of the nutrition, reproduction, life methods, and parasitism of the fungi, their rôle in plant diseases, their kinds systematically considered, the prevention of diseases, fungicides, spraying, etc. This is followed by a special discussion of diseases of timber and shade trees, timber rots, diseases of field and forage crops, garden crops, orchards and vineyards, green house and ornamental plants and wild plants. In connection with each disease, there are brief but clear suggestions as to preventive or remedial treatment. The volume must at once be in great demand in Minnesota, and, without doubt, the small edition of 2,500 copies will soon be exhausted. It is so valuable a book that it is certain to be in demand wherever there are students of plant diseases, and to meet this demand it should be placed on sale.

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*Sea-shore Life. The Invertebrates of the New York Coast.* By ALFRED G. MAYER. New York Aquarium Series, No. I. Published by the New York Zoological Society. 1905.

Dr. Mayer has succeeded in the difficult task of presenting in a readable and popular form a good deal of information regarding the habits and distribution of the lower marine animals of the coast of New York and of Long Island. A simple description of the appear-

ance and structure of most of the forms is given that will suffice for identification. Especially noteworthy are the large number of new illustrations; most of them photographs of the living animals. While these photographs are not all of equal merit, the majority of them are excellent and valuable.

The book of some 200 pages is not intended as a guide to the New York Aquarium, but it is anticipated that many visitors whose interest has been aroused by the fine exhibit at the aquarium will be glad to learn more about the marine fauna of our coast; and a book of this kind will meet such a need. At present, it is true that the animals in the aquarium are largely fishes and a few other vertebrates, but with the completion of the new salt water system that is now being introduced it will be possible to keep alive many of the more delicate invertebrate forms. When this change occurs the first volume of the New York Nature Series will form a useful compendium to the visitor who desires to study the animals in the aquarium as well as to see them.

Two features of Dr. Mayer's book seem to us to be especially noteworthy. In the introductory statement the theory of evolution is presented in a modest and undogmatic spirit, that will recommend itself to most readers. In the second place many references to more special works are scattered through the text, so that the tyro will be able to follow up any special subject that may excite his interest.

The book is clearly printed and presents a very attractive appearance. It ought to prove useful as well as attractive.

T. H. MORGAN.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

THE one hundred and twenty-fifth regular meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University, on Saturday, October 28. The simultaneous meeting of the American Physical Society afforded an agreeable opportunity for the renewal of cordial relations among the members of the two organizations. The attendance at the morning and afternoon sessions of the Mathematical So-