

blank pages, thus forming a very original *Icones Algarum*.

The history of the book has been described by Hollick¹ and interesting excerpts are given by him from Durant's notes, which now form an invaluable commentary on the floristic (and faunistic) communities of New York Harbor and Raritan Bay before pollution had destroyed them.

It is possible that still other copies are hidden away in our older libraries and can yet be retrieved.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Manual of Meteorology, Vol. I. By SIR NAPIER SHAW, with the assistance of ELAINE AUSTIN. Cambridge University Press, 1926, pp. XX + 340, 121 illustrations. Price 30s. net.

THIS volume is part of the monumental work planned by Sir Napier Shaw when he retired from the directorship of the Meteorological Office. That the last shall be first receives a striking confirmation in the issue of the four volumes constituting the work, for the final volume (IV) was handed to the printer on Armistice Day, and duly made its bow to the reading public in 1919. It dealt primarily with wind and pressure; though perhaps pressure should come first, since difference in pressure initiates air flow or wind.

Volume I now appears, and from a personal letter we know that Vol. III is ready for the press. Vol. IV had 166 pages; the present volume (I) has just double that number, and naturally the price also is doubled; but the increase will not be grudged. The present volume carries as sub-title "*Meteorology in History*"; and the text justifies the heading.

The author gives his viewpoint when speaking of what was expected of him as his bit, during the World War. He says, "It became my duty to supply or alternatively to train officers for various meteorological services." The director was working in an environment "which contained within its own experience or on its shelves almost all that there is to know about the weather"; yet he had to send responsible officers into the services, "with a formula by which they could carry on in place of the knowledge that would enable them to become a part."

This and the feeling that the atmosphere should be studied as a whole led to the conception of a compendium of what had been done by workers in many lands. Furthermore, there lurks in the author's

¹ Hollick, Arthur. "A Quaint Old Work on Seaweeds," *Proc. Staten Island Assoc. Arts Sci.*, vol. 5, parts III and IV, 1915.

mind a feeling that the study of the atmosphere, that is, aerography, should be thrown open to amateurs, whereas it is now to all intents and purposes limited to a professional few in official harness. He says truly that the study of weather, "which in so far as it is specialized is devitalized," ought to be an attractive subject for amateurs. It is to furnish amateurs with the necessary historic background that this big piece of work was attempted.

The present volume has fifteen chapters, and in every chapter there is plenty that is filling and on the whole easily digestible. The menu ranges from Aristotle's *Meteorologica* to the equipment of a modern observatory, including radio-integrators, pyranometers and pyrgeometers. The illustrations are abundant and, considering the age of many of the originals, have come out well. The personal touch is shown in photographs of some of the international meteorological congresses.

The pioneers in meteorology were all good-looking men, although running largely to whiskers. In the Paris conference photograph not one of the thirty-four faces is clean shaven. How fashion changes! To-day in a group of fifty airmen there would not be a single face adorned with excess pilosity.

There is one American meteorologist whose face is missing; that is William Ferrel, due probably to Ferrel's modesty. Langley and Maury are present; but Franklin and that earliest explorer of the upper air, Dr. John Jeffries, are missing. Robert Boyle might have been included, for certainly the author of the "*Spring of the Air*" did a lot to advance knowledge of air pressure.

There is little to criticize in the book, for it is evident that the utmost care has been taken to get dates, names and facts correct. A reviewer can only applaud the author and those who assisted him, for both quality and quantity of work. The type work is excellent, and the Cambridge University Press lives up to its high standard. The book contains 121 illustrations, 95 of which are cloud photographs. No one interested in aerography, the science of the air, can afford to be without the book.

ALEXANDER MCADIE

An Outline of a Reclassification of the Foraminifera.

By JOSEPH A. CUSHMAN. Contributions from the Cushman Laboratory for Foraminiferal Research, Vol. 3, pt. 1, 1927, pp. 1-105, 21 plates. Published by the author at Sharon, Mass.

DR. CUSHMAN's latest work upon these important micro-organisms will be welcomed by all students of this class and particularly by those employed in economic geology. In a former article, issued by the