

in New York," the price of land and buildings being set eventually at \$74,268.75, a sum less by \$28,000 than the total of Dr. Hosack's investment and disbursements with simple interest computed at 6 per cent.

The state confided the administration of the garden to the regents of the university; the regents passed it along to the College of Physicians, disclaiming any responsibility for the cost of its upkeep. In 1814 the Legislature granted title to the land to Columbia College in legislation requiring the college to move within twelve years to this site or to one near by. The college did move up town, but not until 1857, when it went to Madison Avenue and Forty-ninth Street. By that time the Elgin Garden had become valuable, though the price its lease would eventually bring was not dreamed.

Dr. Howe says that the Elgin Garden was "apparently the first in America to come under public ownership." Its name was derived from the Scotch town in which Dr. Hosack's father was born. Thus the latest great improvement in New York links up with an earlier one. Perhaps Mr. Rockefeller will find a way to preserve the ancient name in his modern development.—*The New York Times*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Fishes of Oceania. By HENRY W. FOWLER. Pp. iii + 540, quarto, 82 figs., pls. I-XLIX. A faunal treatise on the fishes around and upon those island groups of the Pacific Ocean known as Polynesia, Micronesia and Papua. Memoirs of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Vol. X. Published by the museum, Honolulu, 1928.

STUDENTS of Pacific fishes have for years been obliged to consult the works of many authors in order to approach the subject as a whole. Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. 23, 1903, "The Shore Fishes of the Hawaiian Islands, with a general account of the fish fauna," by Jordan and Evermann, has been the chief reliance for that archipelago, as has Jordan and Seale's "Fishes of Samoa," U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bull., Vol. 25, 1905, for that group. Pieter Bleeker's remarkable volumes issued between 1861 and 1878 revealed the colorful wonders of Papuan fishes. The long-felt need of a comprehensive work seems largely to have been met by the present memoir. This is really the corner-stone to a series of five volumes, now in preparation, on the colossal albatross collections in which the author plans to monograph the entire Indo-Pacific fish fauna.

His long experience in taxonomic work upon the world's fishes, his recent examination of the large Pacific collections in the Bishop Museum, in the Mu-

seum of Comparative Zoology and in the U. S. National Museum, in addition to those which he and his predecessors have brought together in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, have enabled Mr. Fowler, with access to a large body of literature, to establish upon a broad basis the distribution and relationships of the fishes composing this rich Oceanian fauna. His treatment, on the whole, is conservative, an aspect which will gratify many workers. At the same time his comprehensive synonymy should appease the "splitters." In a faunal work such as this he regards the purely taxonomic questions as largely secondary. The sequence of families followed is that of D. S. Jordan, 1923.

From the time of the early voyagers and discoverers the vivid coloration and variety of Pacific fishes have attracted attention, but extensive collections must be made in many more localities before much can be known of the distribution of many species. Ignorance of distribution sometimes leads to the description of questionable new species. "Although many sections, such as South Africa, East Africa, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the China Sea, the East Indies, the coasts of northern Australia, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Hawaii may be defined more or less loosely as major faunal subregions, there still remains a large element of homogeneity in distribution." To illustrate the Indo-Pacific measure of the Oceanian ichthyofauna, the author has listed 445 species—a very small proportion of those actually known from Oceania—which range from East Africa or the western Indian Ocean well into Polynesia.

All the records discoverable of over 2,000 species, representing 179 families, appear, together with complete synonymy and references to literature containing them. Type locality is given with the original reference. In the cases of species for which material was not available for Oceania, Fowler has furnished diagnoses, usually brief, compiled from original or trustworthy descriptions.

Eighty-two excellent drawings, many of them depicting young stages, appear in the text. In preparing the plates 108 of the remarkable colored fish models in the Bishop Museum were photographed. A bibliography of 170 works and a 47-page index are provided.

And with all this the author estimates that probably not much more than half of the species inhabiting Oceania have yet been described, regarding his present volume as "only a contribution to the ichthyofauna of that vast ocean expanse."

That this publication is intended chiefly for ichthyologists may be inferred, if only from the complete absence of popular names, either English or native.

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