In the early part of his paper, Professor Montagu quotes from an observation by Professor Strandskov to the effect that if the concept of "races" has any validity, the presence of physiological and "inherent response differences" among such groups would seem to be almost inevitable. Commenting upon this statement, Professor Montagu writes that the results of forty years of psychological testing have failed to reveal differences as among races, whenever these studies have been made by "unprejudiced workers." Apart from the somewhat gratuitous reference to unprejudiced workers, this statement as it stands is certainly misleading and I believe it is definitely incorrect. Psychologists, to be sure, have not always known what their tests were measuring, and some of their methods have not been above reproach. But investigations of race differences in this country have regularly and consistently found differences as between the Negro and white. Such differences are, of course, subject to a variety of interpretations. But the *fact* of their existence can not be denied. I think this distinction between fact and interpretation should be clearly made.

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THE DISCOVERY OF COELOPLANA ON AMERICAN SHORES

SPECIES of Ctenophores belonging to the Platyctenea, of interest to zoologists by reason of their degenerate structure, creeping habit and possible evolutionary relationship with the Turbellaria, have not previously been reported from the shores of the American continent. During the month of August, however, a Ctenophore belonging to this group was found to exist in considerable numbers at Miami, Fla.

Some unusual marine invertebrates were recently brought to me for identification by Mr. William Sutcliffe, a student at the Marine Laboratory. I was surprised to find that they were a species of Coeloplana, or a closely related genus. They were identified by the flat creeping form, the lack of comb plates and the presence of oral papillae. While moving they reached a length of 8 mm and when fully extended the tentacles measured up to 20 mm. The identification was confirmed by Dr. Libby Hyman, of the American Museum of Natural History.

The specimens upon which identification was based were found crawling in considerable numbers over the surface of algae and hydroids grown in tanks supplied by the laboratory sea water supply. Since their identity and importance became known, Mr. Charles Weiss has informed me that animals answering to their description had previously been observed and photographed by him and that they have frequently been taken from his floating collectors and rafts in the sea water adjacent to the laboratory.

A careful description, based upon more detailed examination, will be published at some future date, and in the meanwhile attention is being paid to the biology and habits of this unusual and interesting animal.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

CANCER

The Riddle of Cancer. By CHARLES OBERLING. Translated by W. H. WOGLOM. 196 pages. Yale University Press. 1944. $3.00.

A FEW decades ago cancer research had little to say to the interested public and little to offer to the average investigator, who needs a guiding idea on which to build. Transplantation of tumors had clarified some features of neoplastic growth but confused others, as it is in many respects a mere tissue graft, which, unlike the individual's own cancer, not infrequently regresses. The virus-induced tumors of chickens had no homologues among the mammalian tumors, and even their cancerous nature was doubted. The production of cutaneous tumors by painting the skin with tar merely confirmed human observations. Few suspected that the action of tar was more than that of chronic irritation and that tar contained hydrocarbons which in minute amounts were capable of transforming normal cells into cancer cells; that these hydrocarbons would be synthesized and that their follow-up would bring steroid hormones and bile acids into the orbit of cancer research. Or that the sailor's and farmer's skin cancer was related to exposure to ultra-violet rays, reproducible experimentally at will and the carcinogenic dose expressible in terms of wave-lengths and quantity of irradiation. Or that viruses would be identified in mammalian growth and that their presence might be masked to such an extent that every mammalian tumor would come under suspicion of harboring a virus. Thus cancer research has become an expanding branch of science and of great interest to the general public.

Oberling tells his tale simply and vividly, giving the historical background of cancer research and explaining fully developments in other sciences which have made advancement in cancer research possible.