might be desired. This is particularly true of the section dealing with the origin of the Strewn islands. The entire Pacific basin is described as an area of shrinking and sinking. Before the sinking began, huge volcanoes were built up at hundreds of points. During the subsequent subsidence the sea eventually occupied the region, and most of the "volcanoes disappeared completely beneath the waves and their positions are indicated today by coral growths built up over them as upon a pedestal—the coral islands or atolls." Although the Darwinian theory of atoll formation lends itself nicely to what is required in a popular book of this type—a simple explanation of atoll formation—still, the facts produced by careful study of the islands demand a much more complex explanation of their origin than is outlined here.

A chapter on the military value of each island type is the unique contribution of the book. A well-chosen bibliography is appended. Professor Hobbs writes clearly and interestingly. Geologists should produce more books of this character instead of leaving it to those less qualified.

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The Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. **Frank R. Lillie. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1944. Pp. x + 284. (Illustrated.) $4.00.**

Unique in the history of scientific enterprises in the United States is the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. It is unique in organization, history, and in the scope of its service both to the biological sciences and to the nation. It is national in its services, democratic in organization, and international in its relations. The Naples Biological Station had minimum support from the United States and Great Britain; but in control, staff, and clientele was always essentially German and in recent years has become Italian. It never had the support of France, Russia, or the other European states. The Woods Hole Laboratory, on the other hand, has had the loyal support of many of the leading American universities and colleges, especially of the Atlantic seaboard and Middle West. These were represented in its board of trustees, staff, and clientele. It is fortunate that the history of this institution has been written by one long connected with its operations and while the most of those who have shared in its development are still living.

This book is an important document in the history of the biological sciences on this continent. Its illustrations picture the faces of most of the teachers and investigators of these sciences in the United States during the flowering period of biology in America. Its one great defect is the absence of a suitable likeness of its distinguished author.

The influence of Louis Agassiz and his pupils is evident in the history of the Woods Hole Institution, which is the heir of the short-lived institution at Penikese. Even more dominant in the heredity is the influence of the rapidly growing interest in animal morphology and embryology which stemmed from the laboratories of Leuckart and Balfour and soon burgeoned from the newly established chairs in our universities as natural history gave way to the newer specialties.

One chapter is devoted to the later-established sister institution, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. One function of this marine laboratory has always been its class instruction which brought young biologists under the potent influence of the leaders in the American biological sciences under circumstances which inspire both effort and enthusiasm. The effect of this function upon the expansion and quality of American teaching and research is imponderable but potent.

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Scientific Book Register

BEST, CHARLES HERBERT, and TAYLOR, NORMAN BURKE. *The physiological basis of medical practice: a University of Toronto text in applied physiology.* (4th ed.). Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1945. Pp. xiii + 1169. (Illustrated.) $10.00.

COLLINGWOOD, R. G. *The idea of nature.* New York: Oxford, 1945. Pp. 192. $4.00.

FITCH, LYLE, and TAYLOR, HORACE. (Eds.) *Planning for jobs: proposals submitted in the Pabst postwar employment awards.* Philadelphia: Blakiston, 1946. Pp. xxii + 463. $3.75.

FULTON, JOHN F. (Ed.) *Howell's textbook of physiology.* (15th ed.) Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1946. Pp. xxxv + 1304. (Illustrated.) $8.00.

LUSH, JAY L. *Animal breeding plans.* (3rd ed.) Ames, Iowa: Collegiate Press, 1945. Pp. viii + 443. (Illustrated.) $3.00.

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POSNANSKY, ARTHUR. *Tihuanacu: the cradle of American man.* New York: J. J. Augustin, 1945. Vol. I: Pp. viii + 158; Vol. II: Pp. viii + 246. (Illustrated.) $30.00.

RICHTER, KENNETH M. *A work-text on human embryology.* St. Louis: John S. Swift, 1945. Pp. 178. (Illustrated.) $3.75.

TURNER, RUFUS P. *Radio test instruments.* Chicago-New York: Ziff-Davis, 1945. Pp. xiii + 219. (Illustrated.) $4.50.