Book Reviews

The Prospects of Nuclear Power and Technology. Gerald Wendt. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1957. 348 pp. $6.

The United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which was held in Geneva in 1955, viewed the world energy situation with unprecedented breadth of outlook and completeness. Representatives of the United Nations submitted papers which described the energy situation in the world and which projected energy demands into the distant future. Representatives of individual nations described these situations with respect to energy resources in their own countries and attempted to evaluate the potential applicability of atomic energy. Representatives of the nations which possess the more highly developed nuclear technologies described, in some detail, their programs for the development of this new source of energy.

In *The Prospects of Nuclear Power and Technology,* Gerald Wendt has done an excellent job of abstracting the lengthy reports of this very unusual conference and of putting them in a form which should be readable and interesting to scientist and nonscientist alike. Unlike many popularizers of science, Wendt appreciates the realities of both the economics and the technology of nuclear energy, with the result that he does not give the reader the view that atomic energy is going to revolutionize his life overnight. At the same time he correctly emphasizes the fact that, in the long run, atomic energy will be essential to the survival of civilization and that the time is close at hand when it will be essential to the survival of certain specific energy-short areas of the world—for example, Japan.

Wendt discusses briefly, simply, and completely the technical aspects of producing nuclear power. He then discusses in some detail the energy needs of the world, giving special emphasis to the special problems of countries such as India and Japan, in contrast to those of Great Britain and the United States. This discussion is followed by detailed accounts of the applicability of atomic energy in many specific areas of the world, with particular emphasis on the economic factors that are involved.

The second part of the book, representing about half of the total, is devoted entirely to a discussion of the technological aspects of the problems involved in the production of nuclear power. What is the situation with respect to mineral resources? How are nuclear fuels and reactor materials produced? How do nuclear reactors work? What are the problems of waste disposal? All of these questions are discussed in detail, clearly, yet with no "talking down" to the reader.

Those of us who are asked from time to time to recommend, to nonscientists, reading matter concerned with the peaceful uses of atomic energy should be grateful to Gerald Wendt for having written this book. I, for one, will recommend it highly and will urge my colleagues to do likewise.

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Faune de France. 60, Bryozoaires. Part I. *Entoproctes, Phylactolèmes, Cténostomes.* Marcel Prenant and Geneviève Bobin. Lechevalier, Paris, 1956. 398 pp. Illus. F. 5000, paper.

No single up-to-date monograph exists which is completely adequate for identification of recent bryozoan fauna of Western Europe, particularly of France and the Mediterranean region. Marcel Prenant and Geneviève Bobin intend to alleviate the need but, because bryozoan literature is considerable and taxonomy is controversial, they find it necessary to extend the project beyond one volume.

The first volume covers 25 families, 40 genera, and 119 species, 11 of which are fresh-water species and 108, marine. These 119 species fall into the following taxa: class Entoprocta, 38 species: class Ectoprocta: subclass Phylactolaemata, nine species; subclass Gymnolaemata, suborder Ctenostomata, 72 species. Of these 119 species, 77 are already known in French waters and 35 more can be expected to occur there. Of these 77 reported species, 25 are entoprocts, eight, phylactolaemata, and 44, ctenostomes.

Subsequent volumes will deal with the remaining and far more numerous marine ectoprocts of the suborders Cheilostomata and Cyclostomata.

No new species are erected. Deviations from traditional bryozoan classification are minor. Only one emendation was made, that to the ctenostome group Paludicellina, into which were placed the Benedeniporidae and the Lobiancoporidae, which the authors have elevated to family rank from previous subfamily status. Other authors had considered these subfamilies as belonging to the Alcyonidiidae. Complete synonymy and morphological, statistical, developmental, ecological, distributional, and historical data are given for each species, wherever such data are available or wherever it is prudent.

Of the monograph's 398 pages, 57 are devoted to an extensive bibliography, about 28 pages, roughly, to very detailed keys to genera and species, 49 pages to the Phylactolaemata, 161 pages to the ctenostomes, and 102 to the entoprocts. The 11 fresh-water species occupy about 59 pages.

The illustrations (151 figures) are simple, large, clear, and adequate for purposes of identification. Each of the 119 species is illustrated. Most of the figures include several sketches each, and 39 are full plate size, or nearly so.

The classification that is followed is conservative and traditional—that of Marcus and of most other established bryozoologists—and is at variance with classifications proposed by Cori, Hyman, and others who separate the entoprocts from the Bryozoa.

The increasing interest in the Bryozoa makes such a species compendium necessary.

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Vapour Phase Chromatography. Proceedings of the symposium sponsored by the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the Institute of Petroleum, London, 30 May–1 June 1956. D. H. Desty, Ed. Academic Press, New York; Butterworths, London, 1957. 436 pp. Illus. $12.

Vapour Phase Chromatography is the proceedings of the symposium sponsored by the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the Institute of Petroleum, held in London 30 May–1 June 1956. It comprises 36 contributions on a wide variety of researches in gas chromatography, all by well-qualified authors. Nearly all of the