"Reversible and irreversible thermal effects on the thermoluminescence of limestone" (31 pp.), by E. J. Zeller and L. B. Ronca.

The primary purpose of this book is to honor Fritz Houtermans, and in that respect it succeeds admirably. For the research worker attempting to keep informed from the current literature, a book such as this has certain drawbacks; the individual papers are usually less readily accessible and receive more limited circulation than if they were published in a standard journal. I for one feel that science would be better served if a *Festband* such as this had appeared as a special issue of a serial publication.

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The Adriatic Seashore

Fauna und Flora der Adria. Ein Systematischer Meeresführer für Biologen und Naturfreunde. Rupert Riedl. Parey, Hamburg, Germany, 1963. 640 pp. Illus. DM. 58.

This is a guide to the marine biota of a local ocean which will gladden the heart of every marine biologist. Indeed, it is exemplary in every respect. Although we have some good introductions to the fauna of other coasts and oceans, they usually concentrate on a specific aspect—identification, habitat distribution, a complete list of names, or colorful illustrations. Riedl's book is more ambitious in that it attempts to give a real introduction to the biota of the Adriatic. It includes not only a description of some 1500 species, carefully chosen among the 6000 known species of the area, but a considerable amount of valuable biological information about these species. Their life histories and development are described, as is their geographical and habitat distribution. The user of the volume receives a first-rate course in marine zoology and botany, because the higher taxa, from phylum and class down, are succinctly characterized and much helpful information is given concerning the literature on specific taxa. This information will permit more detailed study of the respective groups and identification of species not included. Riedl even treats halophilous insects, spiders, myriapods, and marine birds and mammals.

The volume is lavishly illustrated with 8 color plates and 221 black-and-white plates; the total number of figures (including text figures) is 2590, all of them of the highest quality. The line drawings are far superior to anything found in the average seashore guide. Every species mentioned in the volume is figured. Riedl was assisted by 14 other specialists, who were responsible for the treatment of particular classes or orders. Instructions are included for collecting and preserving the different groups, and by placing special stress on gaps in our knowledge the author attempts to encourage further research. German, Italian, and Serbo-Croatian names are given for all species for which vernacular names are known. With its glossaries, indexes, and other aids for the user, this is certainly an outstandingly helpful volume for the rankest beginner as well as the advanced specialist. As a matter of fact, Riedl's handbook of the biota of the Adriatic will prove most helpful not only for other areas in the Mediterranean (most of the species are widespread), but even for visitors to seashores well beyond the Mediterranean.

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Johannes Kepler

An Account of the Astronomical Discoveries of Kepler. Robert Small. A reprinting of the 1804 text, with a foreword by William D. Stahlman. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1963. xvi + 386 pp. Illus. $5.50.

Perhaps the most popular preoccupation among contemporary historians of science is the analysis and assessment of the work of Isaac Newton. The publication of his correspondence, a definitive variorum edition of the *Principia*, detailed studies of his work in optics, mathematics, and chemistry, as well as a new biography, all these and more, are well under way. Of course this is as it should be, yet the ancillary genius of Kepler, who not only contributed significantly to Newton's own accomplishment but who helped to mold so much of modern science itself, remains relatively unexplored.

Exegetical texts on the prolix prose of Johannes Kepler are as rare as those on Newton are abundant, and yet the need is greater. Newton can be difficult and involved, but Kepler, by contrast, plunges the reader into Stygian darkness and then leaves him to seek out for himself (as one must, for example, in the *Astronomia Nova* for two of the famous three laws of planetary motion) the singular accomplishments of Kepler's genius.

Robert Small's book, which William Stahlman has rescued from oblivion with this reprinting, gives an account (the best in English) of Kepler's astronomical discoveries. But it does more than that, for as the subtitle of the original, 1804 edition indicates, it also includes "an Historical Review of the Systems Which Had Successively Prevailed before His Time." This properly sets the background for a decent discussion of Kepler's accomplishment, so that the value of this work goes beyond the boundaries of Kepler's career. While Stahlman has aided the modern reader by providing a useful index, the publisher has failed to match the caliber of his editor. Eighty detailed diagrams are crammed onto 11 pages at the end of the text, without even the old-fashioned device of a folded page to enable the reader to bring the textual discussion and the diagrams together. In every other aspect, however, this is a well-produced book.

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Note

Microbiology

Recent Progress in Microbiology (University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Canada, 1963. 735 pp. Illus. $21.50), edited by N. E. Gibbons, is a collection of the invited papers presented at 13 symposia held at the 8th International Congress of Microbiology (Montreal, 1962). Its chief value is that it provides an up-to-date summary of developments in the fields of microbiology in which one is not working. The articles that consider fields with which one is familiar are well done and informative, but, of course, one is aware of the work, and the information