

his fellow historian James Malin but this does not lessen the worth of what he has written. He leaves unresolved the problem of what needs to be done to attain the desired balance of man in modern scientific civilization and nature. Another historian and student of American literature, Dr. Charles Sanford, commenting on Thoreau's work in his recent book, *The Quest for Paradise*, has said that it is not to advocate a back-to-nature movement which is impossible but rather that an "integrating midpoint" be sought with "wild nature as an instrument of self-discovery . . . preserving the best in each mode of life-simplicity without brutishness, refinement without affectation, learning without depravity."—ROBERT P. McINTOSH, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana.

LE PHYTOPLANKTON DE LA BAIE DES CHALEURS. By Jules Brunel. L'Institut Botanique de l'Université de Montréal, Contribution No. 77. Univ. of Montreal Press, Montreal. 1962. 365 pages, including 66 plates.

This is an account of the phytoplankton species collected during the summers of 1954 and 1955 at 15 shallow and deep-water stations in the Bay of Chaleurs between Quebec and New Brunswick. Net collections contained 74 spp. of diatoms, 14 Dinophyceae, 1 Xanthophyceae, and 1 Silicoflagellatae. There are keys to genera and some spp. Each sp. is considered with reference to detailed anatomy, local and general geographical distribution, and taxonomic relationships to other spp. The literature list is impressive but the most useful feature of this volume are the 66 plates of phase contrast photomicrographs.—R. W. PENNAK, Univ. of Colorado.

THE ANTS OF NORTH DAKOTA. By George C. and Jeanette Wheeler. University of North Dakota Press, Grand Forks. 326 p. 81 maps and numerous figures and tables. 1963. \$4.00, paper.

Until quite recently the ant fauna of North Dakota was almost entirely unknown until the Wheelers, Weber, Kanno and others made it common knowledge. The ant fauna of the state is especially interesting since North Dakota is not only one of our most northern states but it is also the meeting ground for eastern and western species. The state is particularly rich in formicine ants, 54 of the 83 species belonging to that subfamily and the genus *Formica* containing 31 of the 54.

This handbook, which is based on 5,000 collections, deals only with those ants that actually occur in the state. It is printed on such a high quality of paper that all reading matter is very legible and most of the illustrations are reasonably clear. The taxonomic treatment followed is that of Creighton. According to the Wheelers "This handbook is intended for anyone interested in ants of the northern plains, but is especially designed for amateurs. We hope it may be of use in high school biology courses. Myrmecologists and biogeographers will be concerned with the ecological and distributional data." We also learn that the authors had three main objects in mind when preparing it: What species occur in the state, where they occur, and why they occur there and not elsewhere.

This is without doubt the most complete handbook on the ants of a state that has ever been written in the United States. It is difficult to think of a thing pertaining to ants directly or indirectly that has been overlooked. It is impossible to list here briefly all the numerous and diverse topics that have been discussed; only the main ones can be mentioned: I. *Ants in General*—their recognition as ants, polymorphism, seasonal and colony cycles, nests, food, senses, classification, names and economic importance. II. *Methods of Studying Ants*—directions for collecting, studying and preserving including also the care of live ants in artificial nests. III. *North Dakota*