

system, seems a little neglected. The final chapter, "Retrospect," clearly states that comparatively little work has been done by the biologist in woodland and it is hoped that this book will stimulate interest in the subject.

D. BREMNER.

Fair Isle and its Birds, by **Kenneth Williamson**. Oliver & Boyd. 30s.

Birds of the Atlantic Islands, Vol. II, by **David A. Bannerman** and **W. Mary Bannerman**. Oliver & Boyd, 84s.

Ever since Ken Williamson ended his tour as the first Warden of Fair Isle Bird Observatory in 1956, we have been awaiting this book, which admirably summarises his fruitful period of study at this outstanding migration station. Thanks to its isolated position between Orkney and Shetland, Fair Isle has a remarkable record of rarities, but the many commoner birds that pass through it every year are of even greater interest to the student of bird migration. The greater part of the book discusses the resident and migratory birds of the island, but not the least interesting chapters are those which describe the human inhabitants and their lives and history. At the end Peter Davis, Ken Williamson's successor as Warden, contributes a complete list of the birds that have been proved to occur on Fair Isle to date.

The second volume of David Bannerman's latest enterprise deals with the birds of Madeira in his customary thorough fashion, with the aid, especially in the field work, of his wife, and some excellent paintings by D. M. Reid-Henry. The Desertas and Porto Santo Islands are also included. We are promised a third volume to deal with the Azores, and "a fourth volume on the Cape Verde Islands would be a logical conclusion." While this cannot be described as a handy volume to take out in the field, it will nevertheless be indispensable for all ornithologists visiting Madeira.

RICHARD FITTER.

World Without Sun, by **Jacques-Yves Cousteau**. Heinemann, 63s.

Jacques-Yves Cousteau is one of the major pioneers and explorers of this generation. His imagination, energy and determination have assured him a commanding place in the history of human endeavour.

This book is largely a photographic record of his undersea village in the Red Sea, but it is not just a picture book; the story in the text must be read as well. It tells of Conshelf Two from its prefabrication in Nice to the successful research unit which it finally became on Roman Reef 80 miles north of Port Sudan. For a month 5 oceanauts lived in Starfish House at a depth of 40 ft. Two men spent a week in a smaller Deep Cabin at 90 ft. All these people had free access with aqualungs to the sea around and below them. Captain Cousteau's long foreword is especially fascinating. The translation is well done, and the remarkable personality of this great Frenchman stands out.

The photographs are good, many of them beautiful. To a naturalist the most interesting part is likely to be the account of a deepsea dive to 975 ft. in the Diving Saucer. Here are really marvellous pictures of deepsea fishes (including a huge shark) and crustaceans in their natural habitat. Both pure and applied science were given the greatest possible attention in a most impressive way on the expedition.

With today's problems of overpopulation and undernourishment in so many parts of the world, the long term value of establishing undersea communities is obvious, apart from the commercial possibilities involving oil and gas. This book is an excellent record of one of the most remarkable expeditions of our time.

PHILIPPA SCOTT.