

containing many letters not previously published. It is, as it were, a magnified detail in the history of science, prepared by Dr. Robert Stecher who has written a prefatory note, and gives a true picture of the friendship that existed between the two men.

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**High Tide**, by **Professor J.L.B. Smith**. Books of Africa, Cape Town, R3.50.

**Harvest of the Sea**, by **John Bardach**. Allen and Unwin, 55s.

**The Fertile Sea**, by **A.P. Orr** and **S.M. Marshall**. Fishing News, London, 55s.

Professor Smith, who described the first coelocanth fish and called it *Latimeria*, and furthermore instigated the successful search for the second, died in 1967, after a lifetime of ichthyology and game fishing. He had written many articles, both scientific and popular; 30 of the latter are collected here. They are all characteristic, including some about dangerous adventures in the turbulent waters of Mozambique, where his wife was an enduring comrade, in fact heroic. The photographs are fine and the publishers deserve praise also for sticking to upright titling on the spine, which is unfashionable but suggests a book worth possessing. Even non-ichthyologists will savour the narrative quality.

Anyone considering a problem in the resources of the sea should first look to see what Professor Bardach has written on the point: surely he cannot have left anything out of this book—ah, yes, shagreen. Lest the encyclopediac quality sound dull, let it be noted that the book is studded with gems, such as the mimic species of fish that uses its resemblance to a cleaning wrasse to approach a larger fish and bite pieces out of it. There are no fewer than twelve references to Cousteau in the index, with many more covering a wide range. On the larger issues, also, Bardach is excellent: on Pollution, indexed as Wastes, he quotes modern man as “standing knee-deep in filth and firing rockets at the moon”. Altogether an industrious work, sound and reliable, with a final warning that unless care is taken in time, the result of technology may well be to damage the sea as it has done the land.

The late Dr. Orr's Buckland Lectures have been made into a very interesting book by his lifelong colleague Dr. Sheila Marshall. It conveys a clear and authentic understanding of the subject—all the more interesting because the authors find space to give alternative explanations of the many unanswered questions on the fertility of the sea. The interest comes from deep thinking about life-processes. Thus some of the very small crustacea called copepods, if fed on only one species of green micro-organism, will die off after a few generations, but a mixture of certain pairs of food species may keep them alive indefinitely. Fertilising aquatic ecosystems is successful in enclosed habitats only, but the authors are solidly in agreement with Bardach's underlying theme when they write, “There is no doubt that more food can and must be got from the fertile sea.” Some following paragraphs indicate hopeful sources of increased production. The book is careful, critical, and jargon-free. Surely this is the top quality treatise on the subject. The illustrations are, as the publisher claims, truly remarkable, including a generous series of D.P. Wilson's fairylike photographs of living plankton organisms, and many exquisite line drawings in miniature.

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