

synthesis of present knowledge of the functional morphology and physiology of the annelids (i.e. mainly the Polychaeta) with useful discussions on the annelid body-plan and the origins and evolution of many of the families. Although some aspects of the biology of the annelids are not mentioned, a considerable amount of information is packed into this little volume of 200 pages, and Dr. Dales is to be congratulated on producing this succinct, first account of the phylum in the English language.

R. W. SIMS.

DIE BEZIEHUNGEN ZWISCHEN TIER UND UNWELT. By Professor Dr. FRITZ SCHWERDTFEGER. Paul Parey : Hamburg and Berlin. 68 DM.

"The Animal and its Surroundings" is the first of a series of three volumes in German, each complete in itself, covering the whole field of ecology. This volume deals with the ecology of the individual; the two succeeding ones will treat the ecology of populations and of complex communities. It is very erudite and rather forbidding for the ordinary reader, but it is likely to become an important textbook. The similarity of so many technical words in both languages should make it fairly simple for specialists to find material relevant to their studies, even for those who are not completely at home with German. The clear division into subjects and the ample indexes, both specific and general, help to make the material easily accessible.

DIE EINBURGERUNG VON SAUGETIEREN UND VOGELN IN EUROPA. By Professor Dr. GUNTHER NIETHAMMER. Paul Parey : Hamburg and Berlin. 54 DM.

"The Introduction of Mammals and Birds into Europe" describes, in German and in great detail, the efforts to introduce some forty-seven species of mammals and eighty-five of birds. The word "introduction" here has a wider meaning than we would normally use in Great Britain, for the author includes all efforts to extend the natural range of a species, such as the alpine marmot, even into a country so close that colonisation might well have occurred naturally, and also re-introductions into areas from which man had driven out part of the original population, for example, the alpine ibex. The explosive possibilities of unwise introductions are well illustrated by such species as the rabbit, and also the musk-rat which now extends across the greater part of Central and Eastern Europe and over much of Asiatic Russia, providing (in 1957) no less than 12 per cent of the total Russian fur production. The section on deer is extremely full and useful in showing how complicated the situation can become. The sporting value of red deer has encouraged extensive movement of specimens within Europe, including many imports into Great Britain. Even wapiti have been brought in from America, to add to the confusion and make any division into sub-species or races almost meaningless. The distribution of the fallow deer is clearly shown to be closely tied up with the spread of Western civilisation. Birds also are dealt with thoroughly and with the equally full documentation that is one of the most valuable features of the book. Here again it seems marginal to include efforts to encourage the white stork to return to former nesting areas or to increase the number of mallards, but these points are covered briefly. Much fuller treatment is afforded the game birds, especially those now well established and it is interesting to note the many unsuccessful efforts made to establish such species as the turkey in the wild.

GEORGE CANSDALE.