

have been studied there. It reflects the wisdom of the sponsors of the investigation in their choice of the two men needed for this vital work.

C. L. B.

THE SEASIDE NATURE BOOK. By E. F. DAGLISH. J. M. Dent and Sons, 15s.

This book claims to be a guide to the many kinds of life which may be found by the sea. Seaweeds are included and in a final chapter, there appear such diverse creatures as purse sponges and whales. No plants are mentioned.

I tested this book during a fortnight's holiday on Havergate Island and found that it established its claim very well, for I was able to identify, nearly enough, most seaweeds, shells, and other shore objects. Surprisingly, the book mentions neither the seamat, *Flustra foliacea*, nor the slipper limpet, *Crepidula fornicata*, both very common. The latter is a native of North America believed to have come here with the American oyster and said to be a threat to our native oyster beds.

It is questionable whether the inclusion of a chapter on seaside birds is an advantage, for anybody interested in birds will already own a good bird book. True, the author says he includes only birds that occur mainly or exclusively on beaches or in coastal waters, but how is the observer to know whether the bird he is watching has any business to be there or not? Among the ten ducks mentioned the mallard finds no place, nor is there a single passerine, not even the rock pipit.

The index is only fairly good. Barnacles, for instance, can be found under acorn shells, rock barnacles, and ship barnacles, but not under barnacles. The coloured plates are numbered under a different series from the black and white.

Not only is this book a good guide but it contains material for hours of interesting reading about the animals it describes. It has a faintly old-fashioned flavour and I was reminded of Sir Ray Lankaster's popular science articles, and even of Arabella Buckley's *Life and Her Children*. But it is none the worse for that. Take it with you to the seaside, for it will add greatly to your family's pleasure and to your own.

C. L. B.