
Perspectives in Marine Biology. A symposium held at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, March 24–April 2, 1956. Papers by 41 authors, edited by A. A. Buzzati-Traverso, Univ. of California Press. 1958. 621 pp. \$10.00.

The author of the first paper in this book stated that, "We are asked to suggest what might be done to reach a better understanding of the relationships between organisms and between them and their physical environments, and how we may bring some of the newer and more exciting experimental techniques to bear on these problems."

In Dr. Rae's opinion, current studies will continue to pose problems rather than provide solutions because'. . . (1) until we can take a closer look at the animals and learn more of their intimate biology our field work will lack objectivity; (2) unless our laboratory work can become more realistic, it will not necessarily be relevant to the behavior of the animals in their normal habitats." He concluded his consideration of "Parameters of the Marine Environment" by reemphasizing the point that we are not well prepared to take advantage of the excellent techniques of the experimentalists.

The second paper, by Dr. Alfred C. Redfield, was entitled "The Inadequacy of Experiment in Marine Biology," and its theme is the greater need now for more knowledge of the phenomena to be explained rather than for experimentation.

The papers are grouped under subject headings in four parts, as follows: Ecology, Physiology and biochemistry, Behavior, and Genetics and evolution. The authors are well-known scientists, and most of the papers led to comments by members of the group. The final paper, by the editor, presents a digest of ideas expressed during the sessions of the "idea groups" as suggestions for further development of marine biology.

The series of papers is well assembled and is stimulating reading for all scientists whose interests pertain to marine biology.

THOMAS H. LANGLOIS