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**Conservation Education in American Colleges.** *Charles E. Lively and Jack J. Preiss.* The Ronald Press Company, New York. 1957. ix+267 pp.

A number of the readers of this Journal have made contributions to this detailed survey of conservation education in American Colleges by returning questionnaires. Charles E. Lively and Jack Preiss made this survey of 1,496 colleges and universities with financial assistance from the Conservation Foundation.

Questionnaires were answered by a total of 1,024 schools, and of these 55.3 percent were teaching some conservation. Teachers colleges outshone all except the land grant universities; 89.2 per cent of the former taught conservation while 94 percent of the land-grant universities did. Regionally, the Mountain states led with a 73 percent score while the North Central concentration of institutions rated third, with 64 percent teaching some conservation. Only one half of the "liberal arts" colleges teach conservation, but the fraction was less for schools with some religious affiliation. Earlier studies showed geography to be the commonest area for conservation courses, but geography has now slipped to third rank while natural science now leads.

The specific comparisons made by these two statistically-minded investigators cover 210 out of 267 pages, and they are tedious reading. However, the book ends with a few conclusions and some helpful recommendations. A person interested in comparing conservation education of his institution with some general characteristics of others or who wants a good estimate of the status of conservation education in American colleges about 1955 can spend many interesting hours with this compilation.

CARL S. JOHNSON

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**Eels, Leon Bertin.** 2nd Ed., revised and enlarged by *Maurice Burton*, and translated from the French by Betty Roquerbe. Philosophical Library, New York. vi+192 pp. \$7.50.

This detailed report on the eels of the world, with emphasis on the European eel, summarizes the studies of many scientists. It brings the known facts of the amazing life-history of the eel down to date, listing chronologically the discoveries of the Danish scientist, Johannes Schmidt, and adding the subsequent discoveries of students of Schmidt. Briefly, the European eel life history exhibits eight phases, listed as follows: (1) Birth in the Sargasso Sea and existence as a transparent leptocephalus. (2) Migration under the influence of ocean currents towards the Continental waters. (3) Metamorphosis of the leptocephali into minute transparent "elvers." (4) Invasion by the elvers of the Continental fresh waters. (5) Metamorphosis of the elvers into yellow eels. (6) Growth of the yellow eels in rivers and lakes. (7) Final metamorphosis into silver eels, and the development of male or female sexual maturity. (8) Migration of the silver eels downstream out of fresh water into the ocean and to the Sargasso Sea where they breed and die.

There are chapters devoted to each phase of the European eel life history, and there are chapters allocated to discussion of the eel's adaptability to variations in salinity, of the toxicity of the eel's blood serum, of the phenomenon of juvenile hermaphroditism.

This book should be in the library of every student of fishes, and of many physiologists. It is also good reading for the layman.

THOMAS H. LANGLOIS