Book Notices
Biogeography. Pierre Dansereau. The Ronald Press. xiii + 394 pp. $7.50. 4-17-57.

Biogeography has as its domain the fields of plant and animal ecology and geography, with many overlaps into genetics, human geography, anthropology, and the social sciences. The author (a botanist) having taught at the Universities of Montreal, Brazil, and Michigan, has provided this new synthesis of the environmental relationships of organisms for senior and graduate students, and hopes that it may serve as an ecological inventory for natural scientists, social scientists and geographers.

The author states that he has attempted to show "some of the many ways in which living organisms are adapted and to provide a review of the kinds of environment and the variety of responses" within "the framework of a consistent ecological approach and methodology."

In his Introduction, Dr. Dansereau states his concept of five levels of integration (historical, bioclimatological, synecological, antecological, and industrial) and his plan for recording seven types of information for each level. A brief statement presents the problem of linking together the processes of heredity and environment, i.e., the phylogenetic processes (mutation, ploid variation, and hybridization), and the environmental processes (climatogenic, pedogenic, and biogenic).

The author's experiences from Arctic to South of the equator, in Eastern and Western hemispheres, and his knowledge of languages have enabled him to present broad concepts with excellent illustrations. The bibliography is extensive and the index is good. A Glossary is included because "technical vocabulary is not deliberately avoided."

Thomas H. Langlois


This fine book puts Ohio in the foreground of the states whose fishes have been listed and described. Not since 1920, when the book of Illinois fishes became available, have scientists had access to such excellent data on distribution, combined with means for identification. All of the 172 kinds of fishes are portrayed by drawings, and each kind has its places of collection shown on an individual map.

The format is especially fine for use in laboratory and office, and the high quality paper reproduces well the details of drawings and maps. The accuracy of the drawings, possible only because of the author's knowledge of the characters of each kind of fish, will be of value to scientists. The author states that hand-lens, dividers, and scalpel will be needed to work the keys to families, genera, species and sub-species. Closely related forms have been combined in certain genera, such as Noturus, Coregonus, Percina, Etheostoma, and Hiodon, thus eliminating several names which the author considers invalid in frequent usage.

The seven color plates make available for the first time some paintings made in 1930 by Mrs. Green, the artist who illustrated "The Fishes of Illinois." The literature cited is extensive, and the index is good.

The Ohio State University Press has inaugurated its new life with a significant book, and the Ohio State University Development Fund, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife are to be complimented for their allocation of funds to underwrite this publication.

Thomas H. Langlois