

Of particular importance is that part of the book concerned with the environmental features and microbiology of estuaries. This subject matter is very rarely discussed in corresponding reviews by other authors. Moreover, estuaries are areas of very high productivity and have a great importance to fisheries. Data on the life and metabolism of estuarine bacteria are currently very scarce, especially with regard to the numbers, biomass, production rates and trophic importance of the microflora. These data are also scarce for other regions of seas and oceans. For this reason it is difficult to obtain from the book a definite opinion concerning the important problems mentioned above and, equally, concerning the production rates of algae. In part, this insufficiency of data is due to the fact that the author has missed several valuable sources of information. Data on the number and biomass of bacteria, for example, can be found in different papers by Russian, Japanese and American microbiologists.

The valuable description of the ecological features of bacteria and algae also has definite shortcomings. For example, the descriptions of the pressure and temperature effects or of the photosynthetic activity of algae are given in a formal and inconclusive manner, without a guiding opinion from the author. It is to be hoped that in any subsequent edition of this book the author will supplement his excellent ecological approach with a more quantitative account of the metabolic activity of the marine microflora.

The very important and well-composed final section of the book deals with the economic significance of marine microbes. Among the questions discussed are the spoilage of fish, the bacterial and algal toxins, and the questions of the technical and geological microbiology of the sea.

As a whole, the book presents us with a summary of a distinct step in the development of our knowledge of marine microflora and gives a good introduction to this interesting and important facet of marine biology.

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L. M. ALEXANDER (Ed.) *The Law of the Sea: International Rules and Organization for the Sea*. Proc. 3rd Ann. Conf., Law of the Sea Inst., University of Rhode Is. Kingston R.I. 24–27 June 1968. Pub. Univ. Rhode Island 1969. 464 pp., \$6.50.

The Law of the Sea has traditionally attracted the particular attention of American jurists. Amongst the reasons are the great extent of the United States seaboard, the emergence of maritime legal problems during the Civil War, off-shore drilling for oil from 1897 onwards, and a mass of case-law concerned with territorial waters dating from the Prohibition period.

The Law of the Sea Institute was formed to unite lawyers, marine scientists, businessmen, government officials and other professionals for the exchange of information and ideas on matters of law and policy evolving from efforts to

use the sea and exploit its resources. The Third Annual Conference of the Institute was held at the University of Rhode Island in June 1968, and the Proceedings, edited by Dr L. M. ALEXANDER, have been published by that University.

As was to be expected in a gathering in which Americans predominated (only six of the hundred and forty odd attending came from outside the North American continent) the approach to many of the problems discussed tended to be on national rather than international lines; a non-American is surprised to learn, for example, of the extent of litigation between the United States Government and some of its coastal States on the subjects of the Continental Shelf and Territorial Waters. The paper which dealt with this mainly domestic subject was the only one with a predominantly legal flavour.

The foreign contingent, though small in number, contributed in no mean measure to the proceedings. HANS ANDERSEN, then the Icelandic Ambassador to Norway, and R. G. R. WALL, Deputy Secretary of the English Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who were fierce but friendly adversaries for a number of years before and after the Geneva Conference of 1958, evoked memories of the Cod War. WALL appeared to surprise American sceptics when telling of the extent to which European countries had achieved substantial agreement of Policing and Conservation measures since Geneva.

CARLOS OTERO-LORA of Peru made a spirited and ingenious rather than convincing defence, on fishery grounds, of the claim by a number of South American States to a 200-mile breadth of Territorial Sea.

The two dominating subjects of the Conference were International Fisheries and the exploitation of the deep-sea bed. The reader who is principally concerned with the former will derive little cheer from the Proceedings; the accounts of overfished and diminishing fish stocks are only partially balanced by the evidence of increasing international mutual understanding and co-operation.

The oceanographer and the scientist, on the other hand, will be stimulated by prospects of the exploitation of the Continental Shelf and submarine resources generally. One of the most striking utterances at the Conference was the prophecy that the first setting foot on the surface of the moon would ante-date by a generation the first setting foot on the deep-ocean floor.

The Proceedings of the four-day Conference occupy no less than 460 pages of print, which indicates that editing was comprehensive rather than selective, but most of the papers would not have readily lent themselves to abridgement, and the verbatim accounts of the discussions which followed are often of especial interest. American experts on any subject are generally regarded as very serious fellows, but the majority of the contributors salted their offerings with relieving touches of wit.

Members of widely differing disciplines will find much to interest them in this compendious work.

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