BJARNI SAEMUNDSSON. Die isländische Seefischerei. Handbuch der Seefischerei Nordeuropas, Bd. VII, Heft 4 (89 pag., 57 fig. and 1 chart) Stuttgart 1930.

In the large German work "Handbuch der Seefischerei Nordeuropas" the well-known Icelandic biologist Dr. BJARNI SAEMUNDSSON has published a most interesting paper on the sea fishery of Iceland.

The introduction gives a short account of the history of Iceland, the climate, and the hydrography and fauna of the waters surrounding the country. In the chapter dealing with the development of the coastal and high sea fisheries, and the fishing craft used we find a much appreciated historical account. The increasing intensity of the Icelandic sea fishery sets one wondering. A very surprising result is the catch of herring from Icelandic fishing vessels. The following numbers indicating the quantity of salted herring show the growth of the catch during 30 years:—

1897.....	7895	hektoliters
1907.....	27599	—
1917.....	104212	—
1927.....	497347	—

In the following chapter on the present position of the Icelandic fishery is given a number of details regarding the fishery for the different kinds of food-fishes, followed by statistical data concerning the total catch and the export of fishery products, and concluding with a brief account of the sealing and whaling in Icelandic waters. Then follows a description of the various kinds of fishing vessels used at different times by Icelandic fishermen, the open rowing and sailing boats, the decked sailing vessels, the open and the decked motor vessels and the steamboats. This account contains valuable data demonstrating the development of the Icelandic fishing float during recent years. The rowing and sailing boats are decreasing to this extent:—

Rowing boats: 1922: 901 and 1927: 650.
Decked sailing boats: 1922: 40 and 1927: 1.

The number of motor and steam boats is on the other hand increasing:

Decked motor boats: 1922: 494 and 1927: 676.
Steam-liners: 1922: 6 and 1928: 32 and
Trawlers: 1922: 31 and 1927: 46.

After a short account of special fishing gear and methods of fishing a fairly comprehensive description is given of all the more important landing-places and ports in Iceland. Here we find another striking example of the increasing intensity of the Icelandic sea fishery in the statistical data regarding the fishery of the Vestmanna Islands during this century. In 1900 we have 69 rowing boats and a total catch of 1593 tons and in 1927 no rowing boats but 95 motor vessels and 1 steam-liner giving a total catch of 16942 tons.

The report is concluded with a section on the administration and the legislation of the Icelandic sea fishery.

Dr. SAEMUNDSSON's valuable contribution to fishery literature is fully illustrated with many photographs and drawings provided by the author himself and others, and no one can read the report and fail to obtain an accurate idea of the development and the present state of the Icelandic sea fisheries.

P. JESPERSEN.

L. JOUBIN (edited by). Faune Ichthyologique de l'Atlantique Nord. No. 4. Cons. perm. Int. pour l'Exploration de la Mer. A. Høst et fils. Copenhague.

The fourth part of this work includes twenty-four sheets, bearing the names of such well-known authorities as D'ANCONA, CLARK, EHRENBAUM, FAGE, HELDT, and SCHNAKENBECK, and dealing with the following species: *Petromyzon marinus, Scyliorhinus* (*Scyllium*) *canicula, S.* (*Scyllium*) *stellaris, Etmopterus spinax, Acanthorhinus carcharias, Pristiurus melanostomus, Notidanus* (*Hexanchus*) *griseus, Raia naevus, R. undulata, R. montagui, R. lintea, R. clavata, R. brachyura, Ophisoma balearicum, Balistes capriscus, Congermuraena mystax, Belone belone, Engraulis encrasicholus* (2 sheets), *Rhombus maximus, Lepidorhombus whiff, Scophthalmus norvegicus, S. unimaculatus, Drepanopsetta platessoides.* CLARK's recent monograph of the European Rays forms a very important contribution to the taxonomy of this difficult genus, and the sheets for which he is responsible in the present work should be of great assistance in identifying these fishes. The descriptions of the Sharks and Dogfishes, for which EHRENBAUM is responsible, appear to be of special interest, as are those of the Flatfishes by SCHNAKENBECK, although his use of DAY's figures to illustrate *Scophthalmus unimaculatatus* and *Drepanopsetta platessoides* is to be regretted. In the case of the Anchovy, Gar-fish, and the two Eels, descriptions and figures of the larval or young stages are included in addition to those of the adult fishes.

This part, like those already published, is under the editorship of Professor JOUBIN, and fully maintains the standard set by its predecessors.

J. R. N.

R. SPÄRCK. Studies on the Biology of the Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) VI—VIII. Report of the Danish Biological Station, XXXV, Copenhagen, 1929.

These short studies occupy 8 pages of the Report. In the first study (No. VI) the author re-examines his data on the spawning of oysters (*O. edulis*) in the Limfiord in 1919—1921 in the light of recent work on lunar periodicity in spawning. A few additional observations on spawning in September 1928 are also given. The incidence of spawning in *O. edulis* in the Limfiord where tidal changes are slight (The Admiralty Tide Tables, London, gives a mean rise of tide at Thyborøn, situated outside the Limfiord, of only 1.5 feet) is of great interest, and is comparable with FOX's investigations on Centrechinus in the Mediterranean. SPÄRCK concludes from his records "that, in any rate, two years, 1919 and 1928, a maximum of spawning has been ascertained at new moon, and that a regular lunar periodicity in the spawning of the oysters in the Limfiord is out of the