

Like his previous papers on "The Effects of Explosives on Fish-life" and his reports on "Sawdust and other Water Pollutions," Dr. Knight's present paper shows thoroughness and originality, and his exposition is most lucid. Professor McBride, late of McGill University, contributes a practical report on Oyster Culture, and refers also to the hardly less important Clam Fishery, the value of the latter in 1911-12 reaching \$332,803, whereas the oyster fishery only brought \$212,296. Dr. Joseph Stafford reports on an interesting piece of work, which the Biological Board gave him to do, viz., the study of the young stages of the oyster and other molluscs. Embryologists are of course familiar with the larval stages of the chief edible shell-fish in our waters, but some points remained which it was desired by the Biological Board should be cleared up, and the paper on the "Recognition of Bivalve Molluscan Larvæ" fills the lacuna. Dr. Stafford had previously investigated the Soft-Shell Clam and his report in the "Contributions" published in 1901, was valuable and illustrated by four beautiful plates, but the present three plates, with 44 figures, though heliograph reproductions, are much inferior, and somewhat coarse, showing little of the clearness of detail, such as one sees in the drawings of British, Dutch and German specialists, for example Dr. John Wilson, Dr. Hoek, Lovén, and others. Dr. Stafford followed precisely the method of the early investigators into larval fish-life in European seas, for they artificially fertilized and hatched sea-fishes' eggs, and reared them through early stages, and the latter stages were connected with these by securing the older stages in plankton nets in the open sea. Dr. Stafford's detailed descriptions of the young soft-shell clam (*Mya*), the hard-shell clam (*Venus*), the scallop (*Pecten*) and the oyster (*Ostrea*) are valuable, and he usefully adds the Silver-shell (*Anomia*), the young of which has often been mistaken for the young of the oyster. Dr. Stafford provisionally determines certain larvæ as those of *Tottenia* and *Clidiophora*, and gives six figures of them.

Professor L. W. Bailey (Fredericton, N.B.), reports on Diatoms, which form part of the food of the oyster and other shellfish, though less extensively than was at one time claimed. His interesting notes, chart of distribution, and plates, with 53 figures, admirably supplement the preceding molluscan papers. Dr. Stafford continues his Atlantic Fauna papers and adds to the lists of previous workers, giving three lists of the various classes from Protozoa up to Polyzoa, Molluscs, Tunicates and Vertebrates. A less discursive and thoroughly accurate list of our Atlantic marine fauna is a *desideratum*, and Dr. Stafford's three further papers now published will help towards that end.