

REVIEW OF A REVIEW.

To the Editor of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST:

It is to be regretted that the *slips* alluded to in a review of the "Check List of the Fishes of the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland," in the May issue of the NATURALIST, are not pointed out by the reviewer. In the *introductory remarks* of the book it is stated that "it is subject to amendment in regard to species to be added to the list as records or discoveries reveal them; and not only so, but in regard to species, and such are apparently few, to be eliminated from the list as having no right there." But that given by "C," as an instance of an *occasional slip*, can hardly be regarded in that way, because the occurrence of *Thymallus tricolor montanus* is queried in the text, and the foot-note does not suggest that the so-called grayling is, as "C" puts it, that species, for the words are these: "A little salmonoid in rivers of southern Alberta, locally called the grayling, may be this sub-species." Besides, even if this salmonoid turns out to be a species of whitefish (*Coregonus williamsoni*), as "C" says the Alberta Fishery Commission stated distinctly, and not a grayling at all, yet as *Thymallus tricolor montanus* occurs over the Albertan border, in Montana, its mention in the list, with a query, is quite in keeping with what the list purports to be, as is explained by the following remark in the introduction: "Species which occur close to our borders . . . although not actually recorded from our waters, are provisionally admitted." This is what has been done sometimes in other lists of the kind, and thereby a purpose may be served in stimulating research on the part of any who seek to ascertain what the entire geographical range of a species in particular may be. It might then be hazardous for "C" to state positively that the Montana grayling does not occur in southern Alberta lest it might be found there, and its provisional mention with a query in the list does not, therefore, appear to be amiss. Indeed, it is quite likely to be found north of the United States boundary, for it is doubtless a post-glacial survivor, and the clear, cold streams of southern Alberta, flowing down as they do from the mountains, seem well adapted for the requirements of this little fish as a habitat. If, then, *slips* occur in the list, that singled out by "C" as an *example* does not seem well chosen.

The book itself must stand or fall according to its merits, and if it is lacking "in completeness of matter" and in "compact description and arrangement" it has, nevertheless, been complimented by eminent authorities and has been applied for widely by naturalists. In point of fact, it was never meant to