

the 271 pages of this work only those who have attempted faunistic lists can realise. True, it is largely drudgery : but it is pioneer work without which no future progress is possible. That a large proportion of the species of Sponges, Echinoderms, Worms, Hydroids, Mollusks, Crustaceans, Ascidians, etc., have passed through the author's own hands—a considerable proportion dredged by himself, is clear from the references : but in the preparation of so ambitious a list as that covering the invertebrate fauna of our Atlantic coast, reliance has also been placed upon the reports published by various United States workers, and many of the determinations of these workers are already undergoing revision. It seems, for instance, hardly credible that our Atlantic waters can boast at least nine distinct species of *Spirorbis*, the sedentary, almost ectoparasitic, habits of this Polychæte, when adult, favouring variations in the form and physical characteristics of its coiled tube, which may not justify the creation of so many species. As Verrill has pertinently remarked, and Dr. Whiteaves quotes the observation on p. 68, "The animals of the various species of *Spirorbis* are still very imperfectly known, and many species have been described from the tubes alone. Accurate descriptions or figures of the animals are necessary before the species can be determined satisfactorily." The Marine Biological Station founded in 1898 by the Dominion Government, freely opening its doors to all qualified scientific workers in the Dominion, will no doubt render substantial aid in confirming or in correcting current diagnoses of such species, a station of this character facilitating the study of the animals in a living or, at least, in a fresh condition, and providing the needed facilities for the accurate determination of species. It is revealing no secret to say that several marine invertebrates and vertebrates secured by the staff of the Canadian Station at St. Andrews, N.B., in 1899 and 1890, and at Canso in 1901, are not referable to any recognized Canadian species, and will of necessity be announced as additions to our marine fauna. A *Priapulid* dredged at Canso last August did not appear to resemble any known Canadian species.\* But while such additions

\* Dr. Whiteaves appears to be in doubt as to the identity of the specimens he secured in adjacent N. S. waters, and places a query after *Priapulid caudatus*. Lmk. (p. 89).