

work will be disappointing to some, and the figures, 181 in number, are in very many cases from defective coloured casts, not from the actual specimens, and details, such as the plates in the gill-cover, and especially the fin-rays, are without exception, absent or blurred. The value of this check list would have been very substantial had each species been represented by an actual drawing instead of a very indistinct protographic effigy. The State of New York, some years ago, issued some plates, in annual reports, with details most perfectly delineated, and the colours accurately reproduced. Such drawings a large number of working naturalists have found most useful, and plates of that valuable character are far less expensive than costly heliotypes, such as the present volume contains. It is to be regretted that some figures show nothing at all. Thus, figures 151 and 152 Plate XIII, resemble figures of policemen's batons, but really are photographs of the Californian hag-fish. If the two figures of the pickerel or pike-perch in Mr. Nash's Check List be compared with the four very indistinct figures 112 and 113 (*Stizostedion vitreum*) and figures 114 and 115 (*Stizostedion canadense*), the contrast will be appreciated, and the lack of scientific value in the latter realized. Very few of the figures in these costly plates are of any scientific or practical utility. The compiler is not to blame for this. Photography in such cases is the worst method to adopt. As to the work itself there is evidence of painstaking industry, and, on the whole, much accuracy. Occasionally a slip occurs, as, for example, the note on page 55, which suggests that the fish called grayling in southern Alberta is *Thymallus tricolor montanus*. It is nothing of the kind, but is the active, gamey little whitefish, *Coregonus williamsoni*, as the Commissioners of the Alberta Fishery Commission (Marine Department, Ottawa, 1912, page 19,) distinctly stated. The value of the work would have been greatly increased had the author followed the plan of the Rhode Island Commission's Check Lists and given some details, wherever possible, of the spawning period and the nature of the eggs. Much information has been recently accumulated in regard to that important phase of fish life, and it is stated that a forthcoming Check List, to be issued by the Biological Board, will include such valuable scientific information. Mr. Halkett must, however, be congratulated on completing a very handsome volume, involving much thankless drudgery and consultation of authorities, and the book fills a vacant place, much needing to be filled.

C.