REVIEW.

THE MESOZOIC PALAEONTOLOGY OF BRITISH SOMALILAND. (London, 1935. The Crown Agents for the Colonies. £1 10s.)

This volume, consisting of 220 pages of well illustrated text and 25 plates, is Part II of the "Geology and Palaeontology of British Somaliland." The first part, entitled "Geology of British Somaliland," dealt with stratigraphy and was published in 1933. The book now published sets forth the results of the study by specialists in the various orders of the fossil fauna collected by the Somaliland Petroleum Company's expedition under Dr. W. A. Macfadyen as well as the re-examination of earlier collections and revision of the results of previous workers. It therefore presents the most up-to-date information regarding the palaeontology of the Cretaceous and Jurassir strata British Somaliland.

A number of collections from the Jurassic outcrop at Bihendula some 20 miles south of Berbera have been made since Burton's visit in 1855, but the evidence has been greatly amplified by the detailed investigation by the Somaliland Petroleum Company of a section, 912 metres in thickness, comprising 26 beds, at Daghani, a few miles east of Bihendula. The evidence now appears sufficient to show that the range of the series is from Callovian to Portlandian and possibly to Tithonian; some two-thirds is definitely Kimmeridgian. The lowest beds (Bihen limestone) are lacking in ammonites but from the extensive fauna of Brachiopoda, Gastropoda, and Lamellibranchia it has been possible definitely to allocate these to the Callovian instead of a Bajocian-Bathonian age which was favoured by Gregory and Weir.

The greater affinities of the marine fauna of the Upper and Middle Jurassic of Somaliland and adjacent territories with that of North Africa and Europe than with that of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Madagascar and India has appeared to indicate a lack of direct sea communication with the latter territories in those times. The volume under review does not throw much additional light on this subject, partly because of the poor state of preservation of the free-swimming cephalopod fauna which has rendered specific determination difficult in many cases. The local character of the Jurassic coelenterite fauna of Somaliland is again emphasised and Dr. Dighton Thomas finds its closest analogy in the European Upper Jurassic and more particularly in the European Argovian.

The chapter on Jurassic brachiopoda is of much interest. Fifty-three species and varieties, including eight new genera, twenty-two new species and three new varities are fully described. The extremely local character of the brachiopod fauna is apparent, for although there

are affinities with adjacent territories, including Jubaland, only five species are referable to mid-European forms, and no Indian, Madagascan, or Equatorial East African forms are represented.

In the chapter on Jurassic Gastropoda and Lammellibranchia 47 species and varieties are described. Similarity of the Callovian Mollusca of Somaliland with those of North-West Africa is again noted, and in the case of the Argovian-Kimmeridgian some evidence of affinity with Indian forms also is apparent. The more characteristic species of Somilaland have not so far been found in the Kenya Jurassic.

Little new light is thrown on the stages of the Cretaceous occurring in British Somaliland. Almost the only additional evidence is that provided from 36 specimens of Echinoidea from four localities, which Prof. Hawkins regards as constituting one horizon ascribed to the Upper Senonian.

The Foraminifera are dealt with by Dr. Macfadyen, the Corals and Hydrozoa by Dr. Dighton Thomas, the Jurassic Echinoidea by Dr. Currie, the Cretaceous Echinoidea by Dr. Hawkins, the Crinoidea by Dr. Bather, the Brachiopoda by Miss Muir-Wood, the Gastropoda and Lamellibranchia by Mr. Cox, and the Cephalopoda by Dr. Spath.

H. L. SIKES.