

An obituary of Napoleon Alexander Comeau, the naturalist of the North Shore, whose death was noted in these pages before, appears on pp. 387-388.—P. A. T.

HISTORIES OF NEW FOOD-FISHES, *Bulletins of the Biological Board of Canada*, Nos. I-IV, 1918-20; 80 pp., Illustrated.

This series comprises short popular monographs on Canadian fishes of economic value, but hitherto little considered by the fisherman or consumer, owing to the abundance of more marketable species along our Atlantic Coast. As these latter, however, owing to intensive fishing, decrease in numbers and size, or, owing to their migratory habits, occasionally fail to appear at the different localities, it is important to utilize other species, which are really obtainable in large quantities, but which at present are taken only as by-products, during the fishing for Cod, Herring, Mackerel, etc., along our coasts, and are generally discarded; or for which no fishery at all has been made up to the present time, though in European waters their value is fully appreciated, both by the fisherman and by the ordinary consumer. There they find a ready market, chiefly in a salted or smoked state, owing to their generally fairly large size. Though Canadian and Alaskan waters are undoubtedly some of the most important fishing-grounds in the world, and rich in variety, the number of fish species considered of commercial importance here is surprisingly small, and the fishery is limited to them. The Indians along the American Pacific, the Eskimos and other Arctic tribes, and the coastal fisherman of northern and western Europe have long shown the way to utilize the many edible and nourishing products of the sea, besides the few species bringing the highest prices sought for by white fishermen in America. A number of the fishes of economic value occur on both sides of the Atlantic and the Pacific, particularly towards the north, both the ones of prime commercial importance at present, and a host of others so far little considered in America.

It is for the purpose of calling attention to these latter ones, some of which may one day become as important to our fishermen as are now the Halibut,

the Lobster, or the Oyster, that these *Histories of New Food-Fishes* are published.

The first Bulletin in the series deals with the Canadian Plaice (*Drepanopsetta platessoides*), or Long Rough Dab, and is by the Director of the Atlantic Biological Station at St. Andrews, N.B., Dr. A. G. Huntsman. The second is written by Prof. P. Cox, of the University of New Brunswick, and treats of the Lumpsucker (*Cyclopterus lumpus*). The third is by Prof. W. A. Clemens, now Director of the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo, B.C., and deals with the Rock-eel or Mutton fish (*Zoarces anguillaris*); while the fourth bulletin, by Prof. C. J. Conolly, of Antigonish, N.S., describes the Angler or Frog-fish (*Lophius piscatorius*). The more detailed, scientific accounts of the fish-species treated in these *Histories of New Food-Fishes*, will be found in *Contributions to Canadian Biology*, already reviewed in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

Each one of these four Bulletins is well supplied with illustrations, as plates or in the text, showing the distribution, growth, and appearance of the particular species, from the egg and the larva up to the adults. The text is subdivided into suitable short chapters on the different subjects discussed in connection with each fish: as their popular names in Europe and America; the systematic characters; occurrence along the different coasts; capture and economic value; spawning and development; habits, food, parasites, etc., according to our present knowledge. As the four species represent both deep water and coastal forms; both viviparous and egg-laying species; species depositing their eggs among rocks and sea-weed along the shore, and species having floating (pelagic) eggs, these accounts of merely four fishes show the great variety in their natural history, and the importance of a proper understanding of the natural history of each species in its economic utilization. Furthermore, each bulletin is written in a style both plain and interesting; contains original data secured in Canada, and deals mainly with the life-history along our own coasts. These *Histories of New Food-Fishes* may be had for 10 or 15 cents apiece, on application to the Biological Board of Canada.—F. J.

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