of Europe,' the price of these splendid volumes places them beyond
the reach of the majority of working naturalists.

The modest price at which this book is published makes it probable
that a second edition will be called for. On the strength of this
probability we venture to make a few critical remarks, which, if they
be taken in the spirit in which they are offered, and acted upon
accordingly, should add still further to the value of this work.

In the first place, then, we would have its pages brought thoroughly
up to date. In the second, we feel that diagnoses both of families
and genera should be given. Further, we must say that Mr. Dresser's
book, as it at present stands, is too eclectic. He gives no reasons for
the faith that is in him when rejecting the claims of certain forms
to subspecific rank, and admits others in a somewhat dogmatic
fashion difficult to understand.

The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes.
15s. net.

The first part of the second volume of this valuable work in every
way sustains the high standard set by the earlier parts already
noticed in these pages.

We would draw special attention to Prof. Hickson's report on the
Alcyonaria of the Maldives, which will doubtless be read with keen
interest by many who have hitherto paid little or no attention to
this group. And for this reason, in the course of his report, Prof.
Hickson shows, in the most luminous manner, how remarkable is
the range of variation which a species may take in adaptation to an
environment so variable as that of a reef.

"When I went out to Celebes," he says, "the first thing I did
was to collect specimens of Tubipora, . . . [and] the conclusion
I came to was that there is only one species, which varies on the
one reef within limits almost as wide as the limits of all the hitherto
described species of the genus." His remarks on the significance
of the colours of Spongodes and Solenocaulon, for example, are of
considerable interest, and may excite some surprise among those who
insist on attaching a label explanatory of the meaning of conspicuous
colours wherever they are met with.

There is much else in this report that we would fain note, but
space forbids.

Sir Charles Eliot, in a paper on the Nudibranchiata, remarks that
"It would seem as if the marine fauna of small islands which have
never been connected with a continent is less in number and size
than that of the mainland and its adjacent islands."

Mr. Laidlaw has a short paper on a Land-Planarian, which bears
an additional interest since no Land-Planarian has hitherto been
recorded from any coral island in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Stanley Gardiner and Sir John Murray complete this part
with an elaborate treatise on Lagoon deposits.