

BOOK REVIEW

CLARKSON, E.N.K. *Invertebrate Palaeontology and Evolution*
Allen & Unwin, 1979, paperback, 323 pages, illustrated, index. £7.95

Members of the East Midlands Geological Society will recall with pleasure Dr. Ewart Clarkson who has organised a Scottish field excursion for the Society and visited Nottingham to lecture on trilobites. We have been awaiting the publication of his book with anticipation. As a general text on palaeontology intended for undergraduates the book will compete with R.M. Black's *Elements of Palaeontology*.

The book is divided by the author into two parts not as the title might suggest, but into a short section (46pp.) on general principles of palaeontology, theory of evolution and on the origin of the metazoa - best considered as an extended introduction. Part 2 is the main section on the invertebrate phyla. The emphasis of evolution in the title is no doubt intended to waylay fears of a dry text on morphology. In fact the book deals in about equal detail on morphology, ontogeny, evolution, taxonomy and palaeoecology of the various groups. The book is well written and easily understood. The information given is up-to-date and in this respect is clearly an improvement on other palaeontological texts. There is sufficient description of soft morphology in order that assumptions on skeletal and shell morphology can be appreciated. As with R.M. Black's book, the detail in the morphological sections could be increased if aiming for the undergraduate students. I would have expected from a trilobite expert a little more on trilobite facial sutures. Is the *Peltura* and *Crassifimbria* saga too contentious to be included?

One can always find points of disagreement and errors in other people's books. The following are not intended to detract in any way from the value of the book from the scientific point of view but to aid the author during the inevitable reprint edition and to continue with the overall description of the book. The sections on classification generally follow accepted practice but not every specialist will accept the format given in every case. There is presumably a restriction on space and little room for protracted discussion of debatable points - for example the inclusion of the Heliolitidae within the order Tabulata and not as a separate order. In the classification of the Bivalvia two genera (*Lithophaga* & *Pholas*) appear in two different subclasses - presumably a printing error. The range of the Heterodonta (p.151) is given Trias - Recent but on the next page it is stated that the Lucinacea (subclass Heterodonta) occur in the Palaeozoic. The order Ptychopariida (p.287) is obviously Ptychopariida. It is good to see detail on life history of many groups included, and one expects the faithful diagram on septal insertion in corals to be reproduced, but here only showing part of the story. Surely the text p.68 doesn't agree with fig. 5.4. Metasepta are developed in the vicinity of the cardinal septa. In a review it is to be expected that the reviewer will pick up items as above but they represent a very small fraction of the wealth of information given - a drop on the page (p.52, fig. 4.12).

I am sure that this book will be useful for teaching A-level and first year undergraduate courses and for general reading and information for members of the EMGS.

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