

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Lectures on Nutrition—delivered under the Auspices of the Washington Academy of Sciences.* Published at Washington, D. C., 1916.

This is a reprint, in collected form, of a series of four published lectures given under the auspices of the Washington Academy of Sciences, during April, 1916, with which is included, as an introduction, the address of the retiring president of the Chemical Society of Washington, Dr. C. L. Alsberg, which was given before a joint meeting of the Chemical Society and the academy.

The address of Dr. Alsberg, entitled "The Biochemical Analysis of Nutrition," reviews recent contribution to the knowledge of the component parts of the food elements and their fate in metabolism, especial attention being given to the investigations of the rôle of amino acids in nutrition.

"The Basal Food Requirement of Man," by E. F. DuBois, considers the basal energy requirements of man, the manner in which metabolism is studied, and the factors by which it is influenced under conditions of health and disease.

"Nutrition and Food Economics," by Graham Lusk, gives statistical data regarding the amount of protein and the fuel value of food consumed by people living under extremely varied conditions. This lecture also refers to a dietary study, carried out by F. C. Gephart, in a private boarding school for boys. The author also emphasizes the need of including on the label of package foods the number of calories furnished by their contents.

"Investigations on the Mineral Metabolism of Animals," by E. B. Forbes, presents some of the conclusions, with reference to the rôle of mineral elements of foods, which were drawn from extensive studies of the chemistry of foods and metabolism experiments with swine and milch cows, data being included regarding the iodine content of foods.

In "The Relation of the Vitamins to Nutrition in Health and Disease," by C. Voegtlin, the author outlines recent advances in the science of nutrition, with special reference to

the importance in the diet of small amounts of the so-called accessory food substances essential for the maintenance of health. The topics considered are the deficiency disease, beriberi; the chemical isolation and chemical properties of vitamins and their physiological action; and the distribution of vitamins in foods. The factors which tend to reduce the vitamin content of the diet are also discussed at length.

This compilation of lectures brings together a great deal of useful information and constitutes a handy reference book for investigators and students in nutrition.

C. F. LANGWORTHY

*Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenæ in the British Museum. Supplement. Vol. I. Catalogue of the Amatidæ and Arctiadæ (Nolinæ and Lithosianæ) in the collection of the British Museum.* By SIR GEORGE F. HAMPSON, Bart. London. 1914. Pp. xxviii + 858.

In this large volume all the new species are treated that have been made known since the publication of Vol. I. (1898) and Vol. II. (1900) of this series of catalogues or, more properly, monographs. The family name Amatidæ is a change from Syntomidæ, formerly used, on the ground that the generic name *Amata* Fab. has priority over *Syntomis* Ochs. There are many synonymic references and corrections of generic locations all of which will be extremely useful as aids to identification of species. 330 genera and 2,002 species are referred to, of which 10 genera and 43 species represent new forms described from America. A separate volume of 41 colored plates accompanies the work.

HARRISON G. DYAR

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE REARING OF *DROSOPHILA AMPELOPHILA* LOEW ON SOLID MEDIA

DURING the course of some experiments on *Drosophila* which one of us was performing, it became necessary to observe the beginning of oviposition. It is impossible to see the