

tempts to distinguish significant types of human physique.

"Why Men Behave like Apes and Vice Versa" has given the reviewer many hearty laughs. It has also caused him some groans. But even when disagreeing with the author as to fact or interpretation, inference or expectation, I find myself generally in sympathy with his point of view and manifest purpose. The style and method of presentation are unusual. Humor, irony, wit tend to compensate for iconoclasm and seemingly uncalled-for depreciativeness. Thus of biology, "On the whole, however, the apathy of biologists toward the study of the human organism is profound and general" (p. 195), or "of psychology—a science which seemingly measures its advance terminologically—by substituting, for example, the word 'drive' for the word 'instinct'" (p. 7).

This review may not be primarily a summary of the Hooton lectures, for they in themselves constitute a survey of certain areas of biology. It should then serve instead to steer the reader either to or away from the volume. If consulted as to whether it may be considered indispensable reading, I should unhesitatingly recommend it. The content of the lectures is stirring, thought-provoking, and most readers will finish the volume with feelings of appreciation and gratitude.

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BIOLOGY

Biology. By HOWARD M. PARSHLEY. ix + 232 pp. 80 figs. New York: John Wiley and Sons. 1940. \$1.75.

MAN's life is, or should be, a well-rounded existence, lived not in categories, but composed of many activities, completely interwrought, each affecting the others. So often, though, in his thoughts, as reflected in the books that he writes, his penchant for orderliness takes precedence over the broader aspects of reality, and treatises on specialized subjects result, which, admirable though they may be in other ways, suggest a two-dimensional rather than a three-dimensional world. So ingrained is this tendency that even in text-books of biology plants and animals are often considered separately, though this is not the modern trend. The present volume is an expression of this more recent philosophy, which after all comes closer to the fundamental truth.

Prepared as one text of a series, for the biological portion of a science survey course for colleges, Professor Parshley's "Biology" will take its place as a valuable addition to the literature of this field. It is an honest and successful attempt to present the subject-matter of both plant and animal sciences, sometimes side by side, but more often in its real interrelationship. At times this seems rather simple and totally natural, as in the chapters on "Protoplasm and the Cell," on "Nutrition," on "Heredity," on "Ecology" and on "Variation and Evolution." In other cases this innate similarity of zoology and botany is much less obvious, as in the chapters on "Cells and Tissues" and on the "Classification of Animals and Plants." Occasionally this treatment of animals and plants together serves to emphasize their dissimilarities. In both kingdoms the nature of reproduction is basically the same. But the flower of the seed plants is very different from the reproductive organs of a mammal, as a study of the figures presented on adjoining pages brings out forcefully.

Any modern scientific text-book must take cognizance of some, at least, of the more recent developments of research. Though the field of biology is broad, there are in this volume some six pages on vitamins and deficiency diseases, salivary gland chromosomes are illustrated, there is a paragraph on plant hormones, and the effect of x-rays, heat and radium emanations on mutation are considered—to mention just a few indications that this aspect is not neglected.

Since it is one of a series of volumes for a survey course, the book must of necessity be brief. However, its ten chapters are well written, the style is simple and direct, the illustrations are perfectly clear, neatly reproduced and well labeled; some are original, many have been judiciously chosen from various sources. A one-page appendix outlines the "Highlights of Biological History" from Hippocrates in 400 B.C. to De Vries in 1900 and the "Development of Genetics and of Vitamin and Hormone Physiology" from 1900 to date. There are carefully selected chapter bibliographies and a glossary.

With a facile pen the author has drawn the salient lines of that intricately interwoven web which constitutes the realm of life, both of animals and of plants, and in doing so he has made a fine contribution.

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REPORTS

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

DR. VANNEVAR BUSH, chairman of the National Defense Research Committee, has made public the list

of scientific men and engineers who have accepted definite appointments to work with the committee since the release of an earlier list last October. The committee organization continues to be built deliberately to