growth. At least at the concentrations used, sodium 2, 4, 5 trichlorophenate, 8-hydroxy quinoline sulfate and sodium ortho-phenyl phenate produced variable fungistatic action. No doubt proper adjustment of concentrations would give more definite results.

These results thus indicate that the use of various bacteriostatic and fungistatic organic chemicals offer a means of separating bacteria and fungi in pathological organism isolation work.

T. M. EASTWOOD

ARUBA ISLAND

EDUCATION IN ARGENTINA

HAVING just returned to the United States after two years spent in Argentina, I can not refrain from passing along a few comments concerning certain changes which are taking place in education there.

Since the revolution of June 3 (1943), the Military Government in the field of education has carried on such policies as attacks upon progressive education and measures against foreigners, repressions in the form of new interventors in the various districts and institutions of higher learning, and affirmative measures emphasizing nationalism, Catholic instruction and totalitarianism in the university field.

In the universities all the deanships have been filled by the appointment of temporary administrators usually of totalitarian sympathy and of clerical stripe. The internal struggle for power within the military clique has resulted in a reshuffling of the ministerial posts and several men have occupied the position of Minister of Justice and Public Instruction. Each change in the position brings about the resignation of each of the interventors assigned to Argentina's six universities. This year, two weeks before the opening of the school year, only one of the six institutions of higher learning had any resemblance to a functional administration.

It may be important to keep scientists informed regarding the situation since under present conditions great caution must be used before further efforts are made by either institutions or individuals to contribute to the betterment of education or scientific research in Argentina. Until there is again freedom of assemblage, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, the opportunities for assisting the educational programs of the country by grants for research, libraries or exchange fellowships are greatly diminished.

J. A. SHELLENBERGER

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

CHROMOSOMES AND PHYLOGENY

Contributions to the Genetics, Taxonomy and Ecology of Drosophila pseudoobscura and its Relatives. By TH. DOBZHANSKY and CARL EPLING. Carnegie Institution of Washington Publication 554. Washington, D. C., 183 pp., 4 plates. Price, $2.25 (paper), $2.75 (bound in cloth).

WHEN T. H. Morgan's studies on *Drosophila melanogaster* led to a revolutionary development of the field of genetics, many taxonomists, paleontologists and other naturalists remained sceptical as to the significance of this work. A study of the mutations of a semi-domestic animal in milk bottles, they insisted, might well clear up the mechanics of inheritance and still leave us in the dark on the course of evolution in natural populations. This criticism was well taken, and students of *Drosophila* have turned in recent years with ever-increasing frequency to the outdoor study of wild *Drosophilae*.

Dobzhansky's ten-year work on the *Drosophila pseudoobscura* group finds its culmination in the present publication. A taxonomist by training and an outdoor naturalist by inclination, Dobzhansky was particularly well fitted to engage in research that covers the genetics, taxonomy and ecology of *Drosophila*. In the taxonomic section he shows convincingly, in joint authorship with Epling, that the so-called races *pseudoobscura* A and B have all the biological characteristics of good species. In spite of the minuteness of the external differences race B is raised to specific rank under the name *D. persimilis*, an action that will be applauded by all biologists to whom the species is more than a receptacle of morphologically similar specimens. The two species *pseudoobscura* and *persimilis*, together with *miranda*, are the only American representatives of the otherwise Palearctic *obscura* group.

The ecological section contains the first thorough account of a wild species of *Drosophila* considerably more detailed and informative than the preliminary descriptions of earlier authors. Particular attention is paid to the factors that affect the population structure, such as food preference, daily cruising radius, population density, daily and seasonal cycles and so forth.

The main body of the book is devoted to a study of the geographical distribution of the various gene arrangements in *pseudoobscura* and *persimilis*. The study of the giant salivary gland chromosomes of the *Drosophila* larvae makes it possible to determine where the chromosomal breaks took place and in what sequence the inversions must have occurred that have