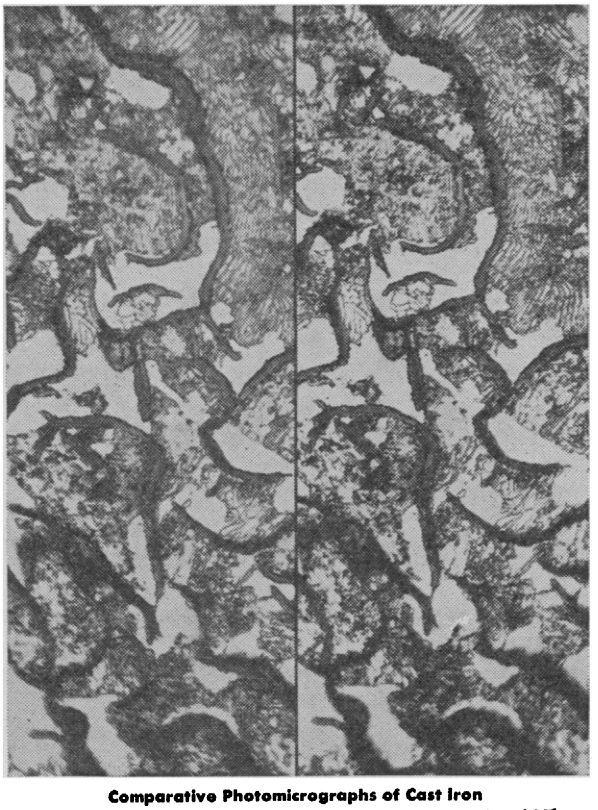

Comparative Photomicrographs of Cast Iron
Left Field, Taken with uncoated 4mm. 0.95 N.A. Apochromat—Flare 20%
Right Field, Taken with Balcoted 4mm. 0.95 N.A. Apochromat—Flare 4.9%

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Mendel himself. The progenies of different hybrid plants varied even in Mendel's experiments much beyond the ratio 3: 1. Thus, in the offspring of one plant there were 19 yellow and 20 green seeds, and of another plant—only a single green for 30 yellow ones'' (p. 55).

Lysenko's ideas on reproduction and development derive, as did those of Darwin and Spencer and Michurin, not from experimentally ascertained facts but from the need for a mechanism by which another supposed fact, the inheritance of acquired characters, may be explained. The need for such a mechanism disappeared with the failure of proof of the inheritance of acquired characters. No new proofs are given in this book.

It has been apparent for a long time that Mendelian heredity, as the orderly transmission of relatively stable units (genes) and the inheritance of direct effects of the environment or of training and similar modifications could not both be true. Lysenko clearly believes the evidence for the latter to be more convincing than that for Mendelian heredity. While that view was possible in the Nineteenth Century and to those who ignore the modern facts of heredity, it is strange to encounter so crude a restatement of it in a country where such striking progress in genetics was made as in the USSR between 1920 and 1940. It seems an anachronism somewhat like the denial of the facts of evolution over large areas of a country as progressive as the USA. In both cases the causes of such attitudes seem to those outside the country to be obscure and puzzling. In both cases also the scientific position of the country is so strong that the heterodox views of small minority groups may safely be left to the judgment of time and progress.

L. C. DUNN

Columbia University

The fortress islands of the Pacific. William Herbert Hobbs. Ann Arbor: J. W. Edwards, 1945. Pp. xiii + 186. $2.50.

This interesting little book is a welcome addition to the meager list of informational volumes on the Pacific. Considering its vast area, the Pacific was surprisingly little known at the beginning of the recent Japanese war. This was particularly true of the territory mandated to Japan. The Carolines, the Marshalls, and the Mariannas were then islands of mystery. Because of extended tours in 1921 and 1923, during which careful notes and maps were made, Professor Hobbs was probably the best-informed person in America on the geologic and geographic aspects of this section of the Pacific at the time of Pearl Harbor.

The book is well illustrated with numerous original maps, diagrams, and pen drawings. The author divides all Pacific Islands into two great groups, the ''Arcuate Islands'' and the ''Strewn Islands.'' A more detailed classification, based largely on origin, results in the following types: group volcano islands, volcano islands, almost-atolls, atolls, part-raised atolls, raised atolls, newborn arcuate islands, and youthful arcuate islands. Each type forms the subject matter of a separate chapter in which well-chosen examples are used as illustrations. The chapter on the Origin of the Islands is not all which