

Book Reviews

Nieuwe biologische Principes: Inleiding tot de Genese van de Voortplanting. (New biological principles: introduction to the genesis of propagation.) G. Wolda. 'S-Gravenhage: A. A. M. Stols, 1946. Pp. 178. (Illustrated.)

The author has collected a mass of data on the manner of propagation of birds in their natural habitat and claims to have recognized certain laws of propagation. Accepting their universal value, the author has undertaken an analysis of human propagation, which he deemed impossible without knowledge of the breeding habits of birds.

The reasoning of the author does not seem compelling, the language is not clear, and the choice of the material is arbitrary. The latter is, for instance, evidenced by the fact that the yearly death rate as well as the birth rate show certain optima. Nevertheless, only data concerning the birth rate are considered in his theories.

Not many readers will accept the new biological principles regarding the existence of phylogenetically old and new rhythms of propagation on the basis of the material presented in this book.

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Radical surgery in advanced abdominal cancer. Alexander Brunschwig. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1947. Pp. xii + 324. (Illustrated.) \$7.50.

The immediate scope of this monograph is a rather limited aspect of abdominal surgery. However, broader implications are apparent on examining the rationale which led to the dramatic operations described by Prof. Brunschwig. The author feels that in recent years there has been a tendency for methods of supportive treatment of surgical patients to advance more rapidly than surgical technique. Today, surgeons may attempt to do things which would have been ill advised prior to the development of modern methods of combating shock, infection, dehydration, and starvation.

A century ago, before the advent of general anesthesia, surgery was limited to a few operations of desperation. Modern surgery was born with the successful application of anesthetic agents. More recently, other contributions to our knowledge of pharmacology and physiology have lessened the mortality and morbidity following orthodox surgical procedures. Conservative surgeons have been reluctant to exploit their new advantage with daring measures to combat diseases which, until now, have been uniformly fatal. In the field of cancer there is desperate need for improvement of cure rates as well as prolongation of life and palliation.

The text is based upon 100 consecutive cases of advanced cancer treated in the University of Chicago Clinics. The usual standards of "operability" have been disregarded for reasons which are presented in the early chapters. A major portion of the book is devoted to clinical histories and lucid detailed descriptions of operative techniques. Photographic and dia-

grammatic illustrations are abundant. A section devoted to supportive treatment of the surgical patient gives an excellent summary of recent developments in preoperative, operative, and postoperative care.

The last chapter consists of statistics on the cases discussed in the book. In conclusion, Prof. Brunschwig states: "The limits of operative surgery in dealing with intra-abdominal cancer are defined not in terms of operative procedures but in terms of the extent of the neoplastic process that may be encountered."

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Scientific Book Register

ABBOT, C. C. *The sun's short regular variation and its large effect on terrestrial temperatures.* (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 107, No. 4, Roebling Fund.) Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1947. Pp. 33. \$30.

ANSON, M. L., and EDSALL, JOHN T. (Eds.) *Advances in protein chemistry.* (Vol. 3.) New York: Academic Press, 1947. Pp. xii + 524. (Illustrated.) \$7.50.

BOIVIN, ANDRÉ, and DELAUNAY, ALBERT. *L'organisme en lutte contre les microbes.* Paris: Librairie Gallimard, 1947. Pp. 425. (Illustrated.)

BROWN, D. WARBURTON, and HARRIS, WILBUR T. *An introduction to engineering plastics.* New York-Toronto: Murray Hill, 1947. Pp. viii + 274. (Illustrated.) \$4.00.

EGLOFF, GUSTAV. *Physical constants of hydrocarbons.* Vol. IV: *Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons.* (American Chemical Society Monograph Series.) New York: Reinhold, 1947. Pp. xi + 540. \$17.50.

FLINT, RICHARD FOSTER. *Glacial geology and the Pleistocene epoch.* New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1947. Pp. xviii + 589. (Illustrated.) \$6.00.

GLASSTONE, SAMUEL. *Thermodynamics for chemists.* New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1947. Pp. viii + 522. \$7.00.

HECHT, SELIG. *Explaining the atom.* New York: Viking Press, 1947. Pp. xiv + 205. (Illustrated.) \$2.75.

MAYNARD, LEONARD A. *Animal nutrition.* (2nd ed.) New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1947. Pp. xviii + 494. (Illustrated.) \$5.00.

THURSTONE, L. L. *Multiple-factor analysis: a development and expansion of the vectors of the mind.* Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press, 1947. Pp. xix + 535. (Illustrated.) \$7.50.

WHITMAN, WILLIAM, 3RD. *The Pueblo Indians of San Ildefonso: a changing culture.* New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1947. Pp. vii + 164. \$2.75.

YOST, DON M., RUSSELL, HORACE, JR., and GARNER, CLIFFORD S. *The rare-earth elements and their compounds.* New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1947. Pp. viii + 92. \$2.50.