policy priorities, security, scientific manpower, and publications. The final part tells of the demobilization of OSRD and contains a concluding chapter on "Retrospect and Prospect." Here, the author points out a fact apparently still not grasped by all who should understand it—namely, that OSRD was a temporary organization set up to do an emergency job. This it did superbly. If there is one lesson among many pointed out by this book, it is that we need a new type of organization to do in peace as well as in war all the tasks so splendidly done by OSRD and many additional jobs as well.

As this is written, the National Science Foundation Bill still languishes in Congress. The supporters of this legislation will find much food for thought in Dr. Stewart's important book.

MORRIS C. LEIKIND
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

Introduction to genetics and cytogenetics. Herbert Parkes Riley. New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1948. Pp. xii + 596. (Illustrated.) $5.00.

We have been asked at times to recommend a book on heredity for the average reader with little knowledge of biology. This book by Dr. Riley seems to us perhaps the best we have seen for this purpose. It is designed as an introductory text for students in genetics or for the average reader who wishes to know something of the laws of heredity and serves these two purposes admirably.

The approach used by Dr. Riley is the logical one rather than a more or less historical development of genetics. The first part of the book is devoted to the physical basis of heredity, and since this phase of the work is covered adequately and written simply, the beginning student should understand it.

The following 8 chapters are devoted to segregations, linkage, crossing over, multiple alleles, and distribution of genes. The chapter on probability is concise and gives the essentials necessary to an understanding of the laws of genetics without going into a statistical treatise.

The third section of the book is concerned with the nature of gene action, while the last part deals with chromosomal irregularities. Both of these sections seem adequate for the beginning student. There is considerable material on human inheritance, including a chapter on the blood groups.

This book, which is on the whole excellent, is well illustrated, and many of the illustrations are new. There are, however, a few minor corrections that might be made if there are to be extra printings. On page 358 there is a reference to Table 19 (p. 350), where it is stated there are columns headed "x, σ, and v." Actually, in Table 19 the columns are headed "Mean, S.D., and C.V." These terms mean the same thing, but the former usage is the current one. Also, on page 327 there is an illustration showing two ears of corn segregating for the color factors C and I. Actually, C and I are allelic, and the factor is A or R not C.

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Scientific Book Register

BACHMAN, GEORGE W., and MERIAM, LEWIS. *The issue of compulsory health insurance: a study prepared at the request of Senator H. Alexander Smith, chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.* Washington, D. C.: Brookings Institution, 1948. Pp. ix + 271. $2.00, paper; $4.00, cloth.

BOYNTON, HOLMES. (Ed.) *The beginnings of modern science: scientific writings of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.* New York: Walter J. Black, 1948. Pp. xv + 634. (Illustrated.) $2.39.

HAGE, ROBERT E. *Jet propulsion in commercial air transportation.* Princeton, N. J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1948. Pp. vii + 91. (Illustrated.) $1.50.

HALLIDAY, JAMES L. *Psychosocial medicine: a study of the sick society.* New York: W. W. Norton, 1948. Pp. 278. $3.50.

HAUSMAN, LEON AUGUSTUS. *Birds of prey of northeastern North America.* (Illustrated in pen and ink by Jacob Bates Abbot.) New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1948. Pp. xxv + 164. $3.75.

HEWSTON, ELIZABETH M., *et al. Vitamin and mineral content of certain foods as affected by home preparation.* (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Misc. Publ. No. 628.) Washington, D. C.: Superintendent of Documents, 1948. Pp. iv + 76. $.30.

KIMBARK, EDWARD WILSON. *Power system stability.* Vol. I: *Elements of stability calculations.* New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1948. Pp. viii + 355. (Illustrated.) $6.00.

MARCH, ARTHUR. *Natur und Erkenntnis: die Welt in der Konstruktion des heutigen Physikers.* Vienna: Springer, 1948. Pp. v + 239. (Illustrated.) $4.20.

PARK, ORLANDO. *Observations on Batrisodes (Coleoptera: Pselaphidae), with particular reference to the American species east of the Rocky Mountains.* (Bull. Chicago Academy of Sciences, Vol. 8, No. 3.) Chicago: The Academy, 1947. Pp. 45–132. (Illustrated.)

SHOEMAKER, JAMES SHELDON. *Small-fruit culture: a text for instruction and reference work and a guide for field practice.* Philadelphia-Toronto: Blakiston, 1948. Pp. vii + 433. (Illustrated.) $4.00.

STORCH, OTTO. *Die Sonderstellung des Menschen in Lebensabspiel und Vererbung.* Vienna: Springer, 1948. Pp. vi + 62. 4.80 sfr.

THEILHEIMER, W. *Synthetische Methoden der organischen Chemie.* (Vo. II.) Basel, Switzerland: S. Karger, 1948. Pp. viii + 309. 35sfr.

TROMP, S. W. *The religion of the modern scientist (neomaterialism).* Leiden: Sijthoff, 1947. Pp. xxiv + 480. (Illustrated.) 15, 50 hfl.

ZELUFF, VIN, and MARKUS, JOHN. *What electronics does.* New York-Toronto-London: McGraw-Hill, 1948. Pp. ix + 306. (Illustrated.) $3.00.