

In arriving at his final selection, the compiler, on the basis of his own teaching experience, first drew up a list of 48 titles, which he submitted to a group of 14 psychologists for criticism and suggestions on serious omissions. The final list of 61 choices represents his attempt at a balance between the wealth of material and the space available in one volume. He frankly admits that "... many important contributions to psychology could not be included." Although some who teach psychology will doubtless discover regrettable omissions, they will, on the other hand, probably find here much if not most of what they would wish to have conveniently available to their elementary students. Historical classics in scientific literature become increasingly rare and original texts suffer from exposure to the wear and tear of reading by large classes. It is important that worthy classics should be reprinted in accessible form and the compiler and publisher have made a real contribution toward this end. The volume has a good index for names, but unfortunately has none for psychological topics. It has been planned more for supplementary use in course teaching than for individual study in working up the background of special fields and subjects in psychology. A bibliography of texts and articles on the history of psychology might appropriately have been included; however, general students of this modern scientific subject will benefit from the well-arranged compilation.

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Aufgabe der Psychologie: Eine Geschichte ihrer Probleme.

(The Task of Psychology: A History of its Problems.)

Paul v. Schiller. Vienna, Austria: Springer-Verlag, 1948. Pp. 233. \$4.00.

This book is an enlarged and revised translation of a Hungarian original published in 1940 by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. It endeavors to reestablish the unity of psychology by pointing out its historical centering about the concept of action (*Handlung*), with its prime emphasis on overt behavior and adjustment to environment rather than on the introspective aspect of human responses. The latter aspect is seen as subordinate to the former, somewhat in the manner of the American functionalists and of Bühler. Ancient and medieval writers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas receive more than their usual share of attention, and with them the philosophical issues tied in with the history of psychology. The originality of the author is at its best in these chapters.

Much of the presentation of modern American writers, primarily such "molar behaviorists" as Tolman and Lashley, is obviously meant to be informative on a relatively elementary level and adapted to the needs of the author's Hungarian students—whose only practicable access to the type of foreign literature involved may well have been this book. After a discussion of psychoanalysis, behaviorism, *Gestalt* psychology and some of the older psychological systems, the author concludes with a gen-

eral discussion of the role of psychological needs and motivation in the framework of action.

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Storia naturale del sesso. Emanuele Padoa. Turin, Italy: Giulio Einaudi, 1948. Pp. 560. (Illustrated.) 2100 lire.

This book on the biology of sex, written during the war under very difficult conditions, is one of the most remarkable biological works that have come out in Italy during these years. Dr. Padoa, professor of biology at the University of Siena, has worked for many years in these problems and has contributed some fundamental researches to the problem of sex biology. He has done an excellent job in presenting here in a clear and simple way problems that are sometimes made very complex. One of the book's most outstanding features is its wealth of information; the reader finds here all the most interesting data on sex biology in plants and animals, always interpreted by the use of modern genetics. Problems of genetics of sex, cytogenetics, physiology of reproduction, phenotypic and genotypic sex determination, chemistry of sex hormones in vertebrates, experimental sex reversal, and sex evolution are all discussed.

To examine the subjects discussed in the chapter on genetic determination of sex, for example, there are sections on genetic determination of diplotes, crossing of a heterozygote with a recessive homozygote, numerical ratio of sex, sex in identical twins, sex chromosomes, inheritance of characters linked to sex (man, *Drosophila*, cat, *Melandrium*, chicken, butterflies), equilibrium of sex genes, genetic distribution in the gametophytes of the aploidiplonts, determination of sex with zygotic reduction, sex in hermaphrodites, and sterility in plants and animals. All the other nine chapters of the book provide just as thorough treatment of their subjects.

Another interesting feature of the book is its reporting of research on sex biology done in Europe during the war years and not yet well known in the United States—for example, the works of Hartmann and his school in Germany, on the physiology of reproduction in the echinoderms, and findings in the same field at the Zoological Station of Naples during the war years.

In spite of the vast amount of material, the real problem is never lost in details, but always emerges clear and vivid.

At the end of each chapter there are references to review articles and other collateral material, besides the references to original literature for those who wish to go more deeply into a particular subject.

This book may be well recommended both to biologists who want to keep informed of new problems and to students who want to become acquainted with this part of modern biology.

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