

where some of the necessary information is lacking, and develops a physicomathematical approach to nervous activity which fits a certain amount of the experimental data and has been extended to include the recent work of McCulloch and Pitts, the implications of which are remarkably intriguing. The method they employ (in terms of Boolean algebra) and certain of Rashevsky's studies appear to go a long way toward providing not only description of neural events in quantitative terms, but also prediction of certain factors. How far these studies will lead toward the formulation of fundamental laws of behavior and activity is still uncertain. The excitation theory, perhaps of necessity, is partially based on certain assumptions which one may or may not accept, and is limited, as the author states, to "a purely phenomenological mathematical descriptive point of view."

The author has also included sections on learning, abstraction, logical thinking, visual perception and esthetics, and other mental phenomena. Any effort to clarify these complex and vague states and functions is to be applauded, and it is undeniably stimulating to see an attempt to put them into mathematical terms. One of the great values of this book is the kind of thinking it represents, and this makes it, despite all the shortcomings and limitations of its subject, a treatise of importance to both the mathematician and the experimental biologist.

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Human Helminthology: A Manual for Physicians, Sanitarians, and Medical Zoologists. Third edition. Ernest Carroll Faust. Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1949. Pp. 744. Illustrated. \$10.00.

The third edition of Dr. Faust's popular *Human Helminthology* includes much of the new information in parasitology accumulated during the war. This is reflected particularly in those sections dealing with Bancroft's filariasis and schistosomiasis japonica, two of the helminthic diseases which become important military health problems in the Pacific campaigns.

The basic pattern of presentation follows that used in the earlier editions. Following the first section, which deals with general aspects and modern-day concepts of helminthic infections, each important species is considered in detail as to taxonomy, historical background, geographical distribution, structure, life cycle, epidemiology, pathogenesis, symptomatology, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and control. A glossary of over 200 medical and zoological terms has been added. Two new sections deal with the pathogenesis and clinical aspects and with the control of helminthic infections. A chapter on leeches has been incorporated. Supplementary and detailed material has been printed in smaller type, making this edition more adaptable as a classroom text. This, combined with the use of a larger printed page size, has made it possible to include additional material without increasing the thickness of the book.

One of the most useful features of the book from the standpoint of the medical zoologist is the chapter on scientific nomenclature which includes the International Code

of Zoological Nomenclature. Additional explanation of the code has been incorporated in this edition, along with opinions rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and the Committee on Terminology of the American Society of Parasitologists.

The section dealing with anthelmintics has been completely revised and brought up to date. New illustrations have been added and certain older ones improved. Some of the newer, more effective technical procedures have been included in the revised large section on diagnostic methods. The extensive classified bibliography affords an excellent source of references on all of the various aspects of medical helminthology.

Revised editions of accepted and well-known textbooks should offer more than a mere rearrangement or rewording of the subject matter. Dr. Faust has accomplished this to the extent of preparing an edition which will be useful to workers in the field who already own copies of the earlier editions.

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Scientific Book Register

This Is Race: An Anthology Selected from the International Literature on the Races of Man. Earl W. Count, Ed. New York 21: Henry Schuman, 1950. 747 pp. \$7.50.

The Alkaloids: Chemistry and Physiology, Vol. 1. R. H. F. Manske and H. L. Holmes, Eds. New York: Academic Press, 1950. 525 pp.; illustrated. \$10.00.

L'Organisation des Os. Pierre Lacroix. Paris VI^e: Masson et Cie, 1949. 230 pp.; illustrated. 900 fr.

Brazilian Culture: An Introduction to the Study of Culture in Brazil. Fernando de Azevedo. Trans. by William Rex Crawford. New York: Macmillan, 1950. 562 pp.; illustrated. \$12.50.

Thermodynamics: Principles and Applications to Engineering. Ernst Schmidt. Trans. from 3rd German ed. by J. Kestin. New York 11: Oxford Univ. Press, 1949. 532 pp.; illustrated. \$7.00.

Metals Reference Book. Colin J. Smithells, Ed. London: Butterworths Scientific Publs.; New York: Interscience, 1949. 735 pp.; illustrated. \$13.50.

Selenium: Its Geological Occurrence and Its Biological Effects in Relation to Botany, Chemistry, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Medicine. Sam F. Trelease and Orville A. Beath. New York: The authors, 1949. 292 pp., illustrated. Order from S. F. Trelease, Box 42, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y. \$5.50.

Design This Day: The Technique of Order in the Machine Age. Rev. ed. Walter Dorwin Teague. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1949. 285 pp.; illustrated. \$6.00.

Archeology of the Florida Gulf Coast. Gordon R. Willey. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1949. 599 pp., 60 plates; illustrated. \$4.00.