sometimes wishes for a climatic map of the Soviet Union, but perhaps it is better procedure to combine all the natural features into landscape zones. This may be Berg's greatest contribution to geography and may point the way so that geographers in other areas can limit and divide their studies more sharply into physical and cultural regions, with deeper penetration into each, as Berg has done for the Soviet Union on the physical side.

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Reviewed in Brief

A History of Biology: A General Introduction to the Study of Living Things. Rev. ed. Charles Singer. New York: Henry Schuman, 1950. 579 pp. $5.00.

All who are interested in the history of science will be glad to see Singer's *History of Biology* revised and back in print. The author's emphasis on biological problems makes his approach stimulating, although his frank dissatisfaction with a mechanistic interpretation of life inserts a bias that numerous readers will deplore. But Singer's scholarship is broad, and adequate to cover a multitude of minor failings, were there such. In general, his treatment of his subject falls between that of Nordenskiöld, which is burdened with detail and overbiased in several respects, and that of Jean Rostand, who excels in presenting the major problems of biology in an up-to-date and most readable way.

Part I of the present book deals with "The Older Biology" and Part II with "The Historical Foundations of Modern Biology"; Part III concerns the "Emergence of Main Themes of Contemporary Biology." These are selective rather than all-inclusive and fail to give a fully rounded picture of modern biology. "Cell and Organism," the "Essentials of Vital Activity," the "Relativity of Functions," "Biogenesis and Its Implications," the "Development of the Individual," "Sex," and the "Mechanism of Heredity" are included, but such fields as endocrinology and biochemistry are represented scantily or not at all. The chief criticism to be made of the book is that its story ends too soon, around 1900 in many fields and around 1920 at the most. Even the "Theory of the Gene," which has been brought up to date better than most sections, lacks a good deal in breadth and perspective. It would be of great assistance to users of the book if the index included subjects as well as personages. In spite of all such limitations, this is a highly worthy book for the shelf of any biologist.

The Practice of Medicine. 5th ed. Jonathan Campbell Meakins. St. Louis, Mo.: Mosby, 1950. 1,558 pp. $13.50.

In this most recent edition of a well-known textbook of medicine, the author has made a valiant attempt to bring all the chapters up to date. The chapter on the ductless glands has been largely rewritten, and the sparse section of former editions on psychiatry has been replaced by one on psychosomatic medicine prepared by Frederick R. Hanson. Topics pertaining to the treatment of infections, formerly somewhat scattered throughout the text, have been regrouped in a more logical order under the principles of chemotherapy and antibiotics and the indications and manner of their use.

The book is well bound and its type clearly legible. The numerous illustrations, including 50 in color, have been carefully chosen and effectively complement the clarity of the text. This edition can be heartily recommended as a valuable addition to every physician's library.

Scientific Book Register

Physico-Chemical Constants of Pure Organic Compounds. J. Timmermans. New York: Elsevier, 1950. 693 pp. $12.50.

Variation and Evolution in Plants. G. Ledyard Stebbins, Jr. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1950. 643 pp. $8.00.

A German-English Dictionary for Chemists. 3rd ed. Austin M. Patterson. New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 541 pp. $5.00.

Methods of Mathematical Physics. 2nd ed. Harold Jeffreys and Bertha Swirles Jeffreys. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1950. 708 pp. $15.00.

A Guide to Psychiatric Books with a Suggested Basic Reading List. Karl A. Menninger. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1950. 148 pp. $3.50.

The Diagnosis of Salmonella Types. F. Kauffmann. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas, 1950. 86 pp. $2.25.

Super-Regenerative Receivers. J. R. Whitehead. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1950. 169 pp. $4.75.

Radioactivity and Nuclear Physics. 2nd ed. James M. Cork. New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1950. 415 pp. $5.00.

Electromagnetic Fields: Theory and Applications; Vol I: ***Mapping of Fields.*** Ernest Weber. New York: John Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 590 pp. $10.00.

Melting and Solidification of Fats. Alton E. Bailey. New York: Interscience, 1950. 357 pp. $7.00.

Electromagnetic Waves. 4th ed. F. W. G. White. London: Methuen; New York: John Wiley, 1950. 108 pp. $1.25.

Physical Chemistry of High Polymeric Systems. 2nd ed. H. Mark and A. V. Tobolsky. New York-London: Interscience, 1950. 506 pp. $6.50.

Analytic Geometry. Raymond D. Douglass and Samuel D. Zeldin. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 216 pp. $2.75.

A Practical Survey of Chemistry. Rev. ed. Walter S. Dyer and Manfred E. Mueller. New York: Henry Holt, 1950. 564 pp. $3.60.

Physics: A Textbook for Colleges. Oscar M. Stewart. 5th ed. by Newell S. Gingrich. Boston: Ginn, 1950. 726 pp. $5.00.

Beginning Experimental Psychology. S. Howard Bartley. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 483 pp. $4.00.