

zygote. Proof of the parentage, in his technique, is supplied only by genetic analysis; with parentage involving numerous genetic "markers," this can be strong proof, indeed.

We have, then, in this highly provocative volume, a full presentation of the work and views of an original and ingenious investigator studying a group of refractory organisms which seem to promise to supply important information on the relationships between cytological structures, genetic mechanism, and biochemical processes. The book should be read by all students of the genetics and cytology of microorganisms. One may not agree with Dr. Lindgren's views in many instances, but one is almost certain to find much to stimulate thought in this volume.

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**Therapeutische Chemie: Arznei- und Desinfektionsmittel zur Bekämpfung von Infektionskrankheiten.** Theodor Wagner-Jauregg. Bern, Switzerland: Hans Huber; New York: Grune & Stratton, 1949. 272 pp. Sw. fr. 35.50.

This is a valuable résumé of the chemistry of anti-infective agents. It is written in three sections, the first considering antiseptics such as phenolic, halogen-containing, and oxidizing compounds; the second, chemotherapeutic agents such as compounds containing metals, the dyes, and the sulfonamides; and the third, the antibiotics. The approach is chemical, with a concise statement of the history, derivation and relationships, and structure of the compound in question. Following this excellent chemical summary there is in most instances a brief, unqualified statement of the therapeutic claims advanced by the developers of the agent in question. There is seldom any criticism of these claims. For a few drugs—for instance, the sulfonamides and antimalarials—a short review of the pharmacology and practical therapeutics is added.

The book is similar to the excellent American volume, *Chemistry of Organic Medicinal Products*, by Jenkins and Hartung (New York: Wiley, 1949), to which it becomes a welcome and useful partner. It is, of course, limited to anti-infectives and includes some inorganic compounds. It is unlike the British volume, *The Basis of Chemotherapy*, by Work and Work (New York: Interscience, 1948), in that it considers the actual mechanism of action only briefly and occasionally. Wagner-Jauregg is an experienced worker and writer, particularly in the field of the chemotherapy of experimental tuberculosis. The German is easy, the printing and indexing are excellent, and the hundreds of structural formulas well set.

The printing date, 1949, prevents more than cursory statements in regard to the newest antibiotics, but penicillin and streptomycin are discussed in adequate detail, even with inclusion of considerable details of manufacture.

If one were to criticize the book at all it would have to be on the basis of its therapeutic credulity. It should

be consulted as a straightforward chemical source, not a therapeutic guide, and for this purpose should be an exceedingly valuable reference.

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## Scientific Book Register

**A Symposium on Steroid Hormones.** Edgar S. Gordon, Ed. Madison, Wis.: Univ. Wisconsin Press, 1950. 396 pp. \$6.50.

**German Aviation Medicine, World War II**, 2 vols. Prepared under the auspices of the Surgeon General, U. S. Air Force. Washington, D. C.: Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, 1950. 1302 pp. \$8.50 the set.

**Adrenal Cortex.** Transactions of the First Conference, November 21–22, 1949. Elaine P. Ralli, Ed. New York: Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1950. 189 pp. \$2.00.

**Amphibians of Western China.** Ch'eng-chao Liu. Chicago: Chicago Natural History Museum, 1950. 400 pp. and 10 plates. \$7.50.

**Maya Hieroglyphic Writing: Introduction.** J. Eric S. Thompson. Washington, D. C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1950. 347 pp. and 64 plates. \$7.00 paper; \$7.50 cloth.

**Colloid Science.** James W. McBain. Boston: Heath, 1950. 450 pp. \$6.00.

**Statistical Decision Functions.** Abraham Wald. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 179 pp. \$5.00.

**The Technology and Chemistry of Alkaloids.** Frank E. Hamerslag. New York: Van Nostrand, 1950. 319 pp. \$6.50.

**McClung's Handbook of Microscopical Technique: For Workers in Animal and Plant Tissues.** 3rd ed. Ruth McClung Jones, Ed. New York: Hoeber, 1950. 790 pp. \$12.00.

**Freud: Dictionary of Psychoanalysis.** Nandor Fodor and Frank Gaynor, Eds. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950. 208 pp. \$3.75.

**An Introduction to Nematology: Anatomy**, Sect. I. Rev. ed. B. G. Chitwood and M. B. Chitwood. Washington, D. C.: B. G. Chitwood, Box 104, Catholic University, 1950. 213 pp. \$10.00.

**Soil Fertility and Sewage: An Account of Pioneer Work in South Africa in the Disposal of Town Wastes.** J. P. J. Van Vuren. New York: Dover, 1950. 236 pp. \$4.50.

**Physical Chemistry.** Walter J. Moore. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1950. 592 pp. \$5.00.

**Biological Standardization.** 2nd ed. J. H. Burn, D. J. Finney and L. G. Goodwin. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1950. 440 pp. \$6.75.

**The British Smut Fungi (Ustilaginales).** G. C. Ainsworth and Kathleen Sampson. Kew, Surrey, Engl.: Commonwealth Mycological Institute, 1950. 137 pp. \$3.00.