

No attempt was made to delve into medical mycology, the biochemistry, physiology, and genetics of fungi, or the production of antibiotics: "... this book must not be expected to be a complete encyclopedia of fungi, but rather the foundation upon which to lay the various superstructures of the edifice of Mycology."

The book concludes with a guide to the literature for the identification of fungi. We are first given instructions on procedure based on the author's half century of experience in botany. The literature lists which follow are superbly organized and should be easy to use. The book is very well indexed.

One cannot commend this classic handbook too highly. Extremely useful for beginners, it has much to offer the advanced mycologist.

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The Private Life of the Protozoa—And of Their Neighbors, the Metazoa and the Insect Larvae. Winifred Duncan. New York: Ronald, 1950. 141 pp. \$3.00.

This is an incredible book. That it got written is perhaps not astonishing, because people with an itch to write are likely to perpetrate almost anything. But that it got published passes understanding. I can think of no way of conveying the flavor of the book except by quotation, for which purpose the thrilling account of malaria transmission will serve admirably:

This final knock of fate started from that quiet spore which had dropped, some time back, into the pool, from the foot of a canyon wren, and had sunk into the mud.

Late in July, when the rains were in full swing, a young mosquito larva found this spore and ate it. The spore remained quiet until the larva climbed up out of the water and became a winged mosquito, very dainty and charming. The spore then woke up, divided itself into a male and female cell, and the male fertilized the female. Out of this was born a tiny, worm-like creature, pointed at one end, which bored its way right through the mosquito's stomach, got into its blood stream and finally landed in its salivary glands. On this journey it had rounded up and burst again into a lot of little spores.

You can guess the rest. One night when the mosquito was flying happily about it happened to run into Mr. Mac, and to plunge its proboscis into Mr. Mac's arm, where it found a lot of nice, red blood. But it also squirted in a lot of baby spores, and the baby spores loved the delicious, round beefsteaks in Mr. Mac's blood, and pretty soon Mr. Mac got chills and fever. Honest!

The author points out in her preface that she is writing "in the narrative form usually reserved for fiction" and making an "experiment in biography" which "required that I take certain liberties." So the book, apparently, is intended for amusement rather than instruction. But I find the purple prose tiring, even aside from its lack of any connection with the workaday world of facts. The book is liberally illustrated with line drawings, which I presume are in-

tended to be "artistic," since the author states that "no attempt has been made to show the actual relation in size between the animals and the plants on which they are found." The drawings may or may not be good art, but they are certainly bad natural history.

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Scientific Book Register

The Life of Vertebrates. J. Z. Young. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1950. 767 pp. \$8.50.

Color Atlas of Pathology. Prepared under the auspices of the U. S. Naval Medical School. Philadelphia-London: Lippincott, 1950. 546 pp. \$20.00.

Fluorine Chemistry, Vol. I. J. H. Simons, Ed. New York: Academic Press, 1950. 615 pp. \$12.00.

Pharmacological Basis of Penicillin Therapy. Karl H. Beyer. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1950. 214 pp. \$4.50.

Textbook of Modern Pollen Analysis. Knut Faegri and Johs. Iversen. Copenhagen, Denmark: Einar Munksgaard, 1950. 168 pp. Dan. cr. 16.00.

Ion Exchange Resins. Robert Kunin and Robert J. Myers. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 212 pp. \$4.75.

The Burden of Diseases in the United States. Alfred E. Cohn and Claire Lingg. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1950. 129 pp. with accompanying charts. \$10.00.

Muscular Contraction: A Topic in Molecular Physiology. W. F. H. M. Mommaerts. New York-London: Interscience, 1950. 191 pp. \$4.20.

Superfluids: Macroscopic Theory of Superconductivity, Vol. I. Fritz London. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1950. 161 pp. \$5.00.

An Outline of Scientific Criminology. Nigel Morland. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950. 284 pp.

Bacterial Polysaccharides: Their Chemical and Immunological Aspects. Martin Burger. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1950. 272 pp. \$6.00.

Textbook of Organic Chemistry. Louis F. Fieser and Mary Fieser. Boston: Heath, 1950. 741 pp. \$6.00.

Diseases of Cereals and Grasses in North America. (Fungi, except smuts and rusts.) Roderick Sprague. New York: Ronald, 1950. 538 pp. \$7.00.

Methods in Food Analysis Applied to Plant Products. Maynard A. Joslyn. New York: Academic Press, 1950. 525 pp. \$8.50.

Sourcebook on Atomic Energy. Samuel Glasstone. New York: Van Nostrand, 1950. 546 pp. \$2.90.

The History of Muscle Physiology: From the Natural Philosophers to Albrecht von Haller. Acta Historica Scientiarum Naturalium et Medicinalium, Vol. VII. Eyvind Bastholm. Copenhagen, Denmark: Einar Munksgaard, 1950. 256 pp. Dan. cr. 24.00.

The Fresh-Water Algae of the United States. 2nd ed. Gilbert M. Smith. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 719 pp. \$10.00.

Technological Applications of Statistics. L. H. C. Tippett. New York: Wiley; London: Williams & Norgate, 1950. 189 pp. \$3.50.

Raudon-Cirujano Poblano de 1810. Aspectos de la Cirugía Mexicana de Principios del Siglo XIX en Torno de Una Vida. J. Joaquin Izquierdo. Mexico, D. F.: Ediciones Ciencia, 1949. 299 pp. \$5.50.