formed in regard to collecting expeditions while in their planning stages, in time so that we may have the opportunity of explaining our simple needs to those who will be in a position to help. The Serological Museum acts as a kind of world center for the study of comparative serology and has been designated as a Subsection of the Section of Zoology of the International Union of Biological Sciences. It has also been approved as a reception agency for animal bloods and sera from all parts of the world by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, subject to their regulations in regard to the treatment of the bloods and sera so received. We offer services of several kinds to those interested in comparative serology, such as an identification service for blood dots representing the blood meals of insects or other arthropods feeding upon unknown hosts. We offer materials, facilities, and instruction to visiting scientists, and publish a semiannual bulletin, distributed free to those interested in this field of work. Help has already been given us by many cooperating institutions and other agencies and by collectors in many parts of the world. But the task of obtaining representative collections of the sera of animals of many groups is so vast that more help will be needed for a long time to come. The source of all contributions of animal sera will be acknowledged in the scientific reports which concern them.

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Manuscript received April 3, 1953.

Wanted—Definitions

RECENTLY Bauer (SCIENCE **117,** 40 [1953]) made a plea for "Logic and Language in Medical Writing." The other day in quizzing my class the meaning of the word "spore" came up and since no one seemed to know its meaning I assigned them an exercise on the derivation and meaning of the word. I was rather disappointed with the results, but when I looked in the books (including two medical dictionaries) which were available to the students, the only one that I found to have a correct derivation and definition of the term was Webster's *Unabridged Dictionary.*

As samples of the definitions given I quote the following. "A cell in a resistant covering, capable of developing independently into a new individual. Gr. *spora* (sic), seed." This definition would not hold for bacterial spores, which are not reproductive, or for zygospores, which do not develop independently, or for spores which do not have a resistant covering. Another: "A cell which produces a new individual without fertilization." Parthenogenetic eggs do this. A third: "Gr. *spora* (sic). A special reproductive body of one of the lower organisms. It is protected by a resistant covering, and capable of developing independently into a new individual." Same objections as to first definition. A fourth zoology text did not define the word at all.

How can we expect our students to be accurate when their textbooks and even reference books are inaccurate and misleading?

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Manuscript received March 9, 1953.

Book Reviews

Advances in Cancer Research. Vol. I. Jesse P. Greenstein and Alexander Haddow, Eds. New York: Academic Press, 1953. 590 pp. Illus. $12.00.

This is a remarkably fine collection of reviews in ten lines of investigation on cancer. Every contribution displays thoroughness, sound knowledge, and evaluation of the topic, and a scholarly, scientific approach. This would be anticipated from the authors, each one of whom is an expert research worker in the specific field.

The orientation of the volume is along "fundamental" research. All but two of the reviews deal with some aspect of carcinogenesis. C. A. Coulson's presentation indicates that the high expectations of some years ago in the mathematical formulations that a high condensation of Π-electrons in the so-called K region of condensed polycyclic hydrocarbons is related to carcinogenic property have not been realized.

L. Dmochowski brings up to date the work on the milk agent in the origin of mammary tumors in mice. It is now clear that the milk agent is not essential for the genesis of some of the tumors, and that the milk agent is not essential for the continuous growth of the neoplasms. Rapid progress in the subject still awaits at least partial isolation of the agent and more rapid bioassay methods for its presence. R. J. C. Harris, in describing studies on the Rous virus, where rapid bioassay methods are available, shows how far we still would be from the heart of the problem even if such viruses were available in the pure state. The key problems are the functional organization of cells and the effect of viral invasion upon such function. As such, research on viruses in general, and on cells in general may in the long run contribute more to the understanding of the role of viruses in cancer than the direct study of the few examples of virus-induced neoplasia.

E. V. Cowdry reviews the studies of his group on the cytologic and biochemical events that occur when