A more nearly complete account of our experiments will be published elsewhere.

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Book Reviews

Plant Anatomy. Katherine Esau. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1953. 735 pp. Illus. + plates. $9.00.

Those who have followed Dr. Esau's research papers and scholarly reviews during the past two decades and have enjoyed her magnificent Kodachrome photomicrographs at scientific meetings have eagerly awaited the appearance of *Plant Anatomy.* This volume should find its way into every up-to-date botanical library, as it will undoubtedly serve for many years as the standard reference on the structure of seed plants.

Although the arrangement of the subject matter follows a conventional sequence—cells, tissues, organs (stems, leaf, root, and reproductive structures)—with topical organization patterned after that of Dr. A. S. Foster in his *Practical Plant Anatomy,* the material has been meticulously reworked from a refreshingly dynamic viewpoint in line with the author's research interest in developmental anatomy. Special mention might be made of the sections on the chemistry and structure of the cell wall, on the meristems, and on the longitudinal course of differentiation in stems, and the final chapters on the flower, fruit, and seed. Here and elsewhere, the results of recent research have been critically reviewed.

Outstanding features of the book are (1) the concisely written introductory statements at the beginning of each chapter in which concepts are outlined and terms defined, (2) the extensive, carefully selected, up-to-the-minute bibliographies on each topic treated, and (3) the superb illustrations. It is somewhat unfortunate that the cost of book manufacture has necessitated grouping all the halftones in plates immediately following the text. This does not seriously impair the usefulness of the volume, however, but it does bring together in a concentrated dose of 90 pages the finest series of photomicrographs of plant structure yet assembled. The majority of these are the author's original photographs of her own preparations or of slides obtained from others. The text figures are also of the highest quality, most of them having been drawn by the author from original material or from published photomicrographs.

To botanists confronted with the problem of selecting a textbook for use in an introductory course in the structure of higher plants, this book poses a difficult problem. On the one hand, the excellence of its coverage and approach points up the serious shortcomings of available texts in the field; on the other, the advanced and comprehensive nature of the book will probably make it difficult reading even for the graduate student. We badly need a moderately priced, illustrated text suitable for the undergraduate, that presents the structure of vascular plants from a dynamic point of view with emphasis on the developmental and physiological aspects of the subject. This reviewer hopes that Dr. Esau can be persuaded to turn her masterly hand to such an assignment.

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Clinical Allergy. French K. Hansel. St. Louis, Mo.: Mosby, 1953. 1005 pp. Illus. $17.50.

This volume upon a complex and rapidly expanding subject has been prepared for the student and the general practitioner, as well as for the interested layman. It embraces the various phases of clinical allergy which involve the respiratory, cutaneous, intestinal, neural, and vascular systems. There are presented not only the ideas of the author but also, without bias, those of many other writers and investigators. Consequently, the lists of references which are placed at the close of the chapters are unusually complete and comprehensive.

The first four chapters are devoted to the terminology and basic considerations of allergic conditions; the next seven to discussions of the multitude of etiologic factors of consequence in allergic diseases. One chapter contains much detailed information on the hay fever-producing pollens as found in the different seasons and in the various parts of the United States. This information would have been more immediately accessible to the reader had it been included in tabular form as well, assembled according to seasonal occurrence and sectional distribution.

Adequate space is devoted to various specific and nonspecific diagnostic and treatment procedures as applied to the several clinical forms of allergy. Less than two pages, however, are devoted to the preparation of the allergenic extracts of such vital impor-