

important substances. There are many footnote references to the literature, where possible to the most recent good review, and the volume has a competent subject index.

*General Biochemistry* can be heartily recommended as a textbook for courses devoted primarily to intermediary metabolism on a graduate level. There has been no text suitable for use in an advanced biochemistry course so that this book fills a very real need. It is not intended for courses in medical biochemistry or for use as a reference work. However, it is so up to date and covers such a broad range of biological topics that it might very well prove useful to any biological scientist as a handy desk reference to substances and processes of importance in intermediary metabolism.

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***The Earth: Its Origin, History, and Physical Constitution.*** 3rd ed. Harold Jeffreys. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1952. 392 pp. + plates. \$13.50.

This is the third edition of what is probably the most frequently quoted book on the interior of the earth. It is now twenty-four years since the second edition appeared. When it was written, the book was one of the first systematic attempts to put together the facts of astronomy, geodesy, and seismology to give a coherent picture of the interior of the earth. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the new edition is its

similarity to the last. The general framework has worn very well. The new results can be fitted into the previous scheme. They give it more detail and more certainty, but there has been no fundamental change. The earth still has a liquid core surrounded by a solid mantle. The crust still has a "granitic layer" and, rather more dubiously, an "intermediate layer." In detail, of course, there has been an enormous advance. The timetables of the seismic waves are now correct to about a second and the radius of the core is known with an uncertainty of a few kilometers. Rather surprisingly, progress has been least marked where it might be most expected, in explaining the processes of mountain building. Jeffreys still firmly supports his previous view that mountains are formed as a result of contraction. All his ingenuity is required to show that this is quantitatively adequate.

The book is little longer than the second edition. This miracle of compression has been achieved by omitting the chapters on the origin of the earth and by an admirable conciseness in the presentation. A geologist might perhaps feel that the elegance and generality of the treatment make a picture of an earth which is only rather distantly related to the one he knows, but it is certain that everyone who is interested in the structure and history of the earth will have this book on his shelves even if he has doubts about his ability to profit from the more esoteric passages such as the appendix on Castiglione's theorem.

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## New Books

***Léon Fredericq: Un Pionnier de la Physiologie.*** Oeuvres choisies. Paris: Masson, 1953. 232 pp. Illus. 1,345 fr.

***Reptiles and Amphibians.*** A guide to familiar American species. Herbert S. Zim and Hobart M. Smith; illus. by James Gordon Irving. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1953. 157 pp. Illus. \$1.50.

***Quackery in the Public Schools.*** Albert Lynd. Boston: Little, Brown, 1953. 282 pp. \$3.50.

***Steps in Psychotherapy:*** Study of a case of sex-fear conflict. John Dollard, Frank Auld, Jr., and Alice Marsden White; Dael Wolfe, Ed. New York: Macmillan, 1953. 222 pp. \$3.50.

***A Brief Course in Semimicro Qualitative Analysis.*** William E. Caldwell and G. Brooks King. New York: American Book, 1953. 163 pp. \$2.10.

***General Chemistry.*** An introduction to descriptive chemistry and modern chemical theory. 2nd ed. Linus Pauling. San Francisco, Calif.: Freeman, 1953. 710 pp. Illus. + plates. \$6.00.

***Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers.*** Lloyd P. Smith. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1953. 453 pp. Illus. \$10.00.

***Animal Biochromes and Structural Colours.*** Denis L. Fox. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1953. 379 pp. Illus. + plates. \$11.00.

***Fabricated Materials and Parts.*** Theodore C. DuMond. New York: Reinhold, 1953. 332 pp. Illus. \$6.50.

***Living with a Disability.*** Howard A. Rusk and Eugene J. Taylor. New York: Blakiston, 1953. 207 pp. Illus. \$3.50.

***Cocoa: Cultivation, Processing, Analysis.*** Vol. III of *Economic Crops*; Z. I. Kertesz, Ed. Eileen M. Chatt. New York-London: Interscience, 1953. 302 pp. Illus. \$8.50.

***Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1952.*** Showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Institution for the year ended June 30. Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1953. 461 pp. Illus. + plates. \$2.75.

***Symposia of the Society for Experimental Biology,*** No. VII; ***Evolution.*** R. Brown and J. F. Danielli, Eds. New York: Academic Press, 1953. (For the Company of Biologists on behalf of the Society for Experimental Biology.) 448 pp. Illus. + plates. \$7.80.

***Historical Aspects of Organic Evolution.*** Philip G. Fothergill. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 427 pp. \$6.00.

***Laboratory Exercises for General Botany.*** Herbert M. Clarke and Richard I. Evans. Minneapolis, Minn.: Burgess, 1953. 104 pp. Illus. \$1.50.

***Mathematics and Statistics for Economists.*** Gerhard Tintner. New York: Rinehart, 1953. 363 pp. Illus. \$6.50.

***Heredity in Health and Mental Disorder.*** Principles of psychiatric genetics in the light of comparative twin studies. Franz J. Kallmann. New York: Norton, 1953. 315 pp. Illus. \$6.00.