

## Book Reviews

*The Nature and Significance of the Antibody Response.* A. M. Pappenheimer, Jr., Ed. Columbia Univ. Press, New York, 1953. 227 pp. Illus. \$5.

A collection of 14 papers presented to a symposium held at the New York Academy of Medicine in March 1951. The contents are as follows:

Theories of Antibody Formation by Felix Haurowitz; Sites of Antibody Formation by Phillip D. McMaster; Response of Immunized Animals to Specific and Non-specific Stimuli by Jules Freund; Factors Influencing the Antibody Response by Geoffrey Edsall; Persistence of Antibodies in Man after Immunization by Michael Heidelberger; Unity and Diversity of Antibodies by Elvin Kabat; Valence of Antibodies by A. M. Pappenheimer, Jr.; Experimental Production of Skin-Sensitizing Antibodies by William Sherman; Skin-Sensitizing Antibody and Allergy and Resistance to Insulin by Francis C. Lowell; Immunological Reactions Mediated through Cells by Merrill W. Chase; Fate of  $I^{125}$ -Labeled Bovine Gamma Globulin in Rabbits by F. J. Dixon, S. C. Bukantz, G. J. Dammin, and D. W. Talmadge; Fate and Effects of Injected Protein Antigens by Charles A. Janeway; The Localization of Antigen in Tissue Cells by Means of Fluorescein-Labeled Antibody by Albert H. Coons; and Radioactive Tracers in the Study of Antitissue Antibody by David Pressman.

The purpose of the symposium, as set forth in the preface, was to organize the present knowledge of antigen-antibody reactions in tissues. Unfortunately, this ambitious program was only partly realized. Because of the limited amount of detail and scope of material considered, the title of the book, as well as titles of the respective chapters, is more impressive than the contents. To those closely associated with this field, much of the material has a very familiar ring. The chapters on Sites of Antibody Formation and Unity and Diversity of Antibodies cover their subjects especially well, are clearly presented, and present reviews that heretofore have been treated only superficially.

In general, the discussions are concise and clearly present the work and thinking of the respective authors. The reader is likely to be disappointed in the very limited discussion of the participants which is included at the end of each of the three groups of papers. Pertinent questions dealing with the topics under discussion were not raised and, in some instances, questions that were raised were apparently ignored. This may have been due in part to the familiarity of the participants with one another and their work. There is so much current interest in the effect of radiation on antibody reactions and formation and the role of isohemagglutinins in blood disorders that these could have been considered more seriously. Regardless of one's familiarity with the significance of antigen-antibody reactions, however, the discussions are stimulating and present provocative concepts of fundamental importance.

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*Sexual Behavior in the Human Female.* The Staff of the Institute for Sex Research, Indiana University: Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, Paul H. Gebhard, and others. Saunders, Philadelphia-London, 1953. 842 pp. Illus. \$8.

The importance of this work in its field is second only to that of the preceding volume by Kinsey and his collaborators, the famous *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, which appeared in 1948. In the present instance, however, it is not necessary to give readers a digest of the volume. That has been adequately provided in the popular press. Nor is it necessary to describe in detail the methods of sampling, interviewing, and checking used in the analysis of the sexual histories obtained. What was said previously [*Quart. Rev. Biol.* 23, 39 (1948)] about the validity of the companion study applies sufficiently well to this one. In short, no such extensive report of human female sexual behavior has ever before been assembled; and controversial though certain methods and conclusions may be, no other study has been based on so many individuals (5940) or has attempted to provide an equal degree of statistical reliability. This will remain the primary source of scientific information on the subject for a long time to come. This being so, the present review may be devoted to constructive criticism rather than to summary or praise.

A striking feature of the current volume, in contrast to its predecessor, is the allotment of less space to the actual methodology and analysis and inclusion, instead, of a section of five chapters of more general discussion comparing the male and female in regard to the Anatomy of Sexual Response and Orgasm, the physiology of Sexual Response and Orgasm, Psychologic Factors in Sexual Response, Neural Mechanisms of Sexual Response, and Hormonal Factors in Sexual Response. This basic material is in part compiled from the scientific literature, and in part represents important, original observations on the nature of erotic physical response and the role of the total nervous system—central, peripheral, and automatic—in sexual stimulation and orgasm. Many of these findings are indeed essential to the authors' interpretations of the data analyzed in the earlier part of the book. Yet, from the mode of presentation, it is difficult to distinguish the original material from the secondhand. In fact, these approximately 200 pages might easily be supposed to have been added merely to make the book more useful, instructive, and interesting to 100,000 prospective non-scientific readers, although, in that case, surely they resemble too greatly the average college textbook to achieve their aim. There is, consequently, a grave suspicion that the authors have fallen between two stools. With one eye on the clamoring public, they have curtailed the analysis of their data to an unfortunate degree and deviated from the simplest and most logical plan of organization. With the other eye directed toward their fellow-scientists, they have included tables, graphs, and text that make the book, in literary style and character, a volume for the serious student and by no means for the casual fancier of the subject.

The foregoing criticism of the treatment of the data needs to be explained more fully. The sample obtained