

haps a greater utilization of this device could be made. Interesting and informative electron micrographs, pertinent histochemical data, and observations on living and surviving cells enliven many sections. Key references to pertinent literature are placed at the end of each chapter, but although this procedure contributes to smoother reading, the student rarely can identify properly and rightfully the observations and contributions of the investigators.

Improvements in descriptive matter are notable in the consideration of nervous tissue, spleen, digestive system, placenta, and mammary and endocrine glands. A chapter on the organization of nervous tissue, long a unique feature of this book, clarifies this topic in admirable fashion. Every student should have access to such a lucid description before attacking this subject in the classroom and laboratory. A concerted attempt has been made to improve the illustrations. Six plates in color and 88 additional illustrations have been added. Still, many of the older and less informative figures could profitably be replaced by ones approaching more closely the appearance of structures as revealed to the student by his own microscope as well as by phase contrast and the electron microscope.

The authors have again recognized and retained the perspective of the student, thus permitting his easy acceptance of their style. This edition promises, as have its forerunners, to provide reliable aid and guidance to the beginner and, for the advanced student, a stepping stone into the many fields suggested for further study throughout the book.

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Synthesis and Metabolism of Adrenocortical Steroids. Ciba Foundation Colloquia on Endocrinology, vol. VII, W. Klyne, G. E. W. Wolstenholme, and Margaret P. Cameron, Eds. Little, Brown, Boston, 1953. 297 pp. Illus \$6.75.

The main benefit of this Ciba Foundation colloquium undoubtedly derived from the informal shoptalk in which the eminent participants from Europe and America engaged. This publication of the set pieces has been forestalled by similar, albeit terser, accounts in the journals; therefore, the value of the present volume is measured mainly by its success in capturing the spirit of controversy that enlivened the discussions. In about 60 closely printed pages, the formal exchanges after each address are given verbatim, and in this respect the book fulfills its useful purpose. It has been helpfully edited and well indexed, and the contributions therefore comprise a series of trenchant reviews of selected aspects of steroid chemistry and biochemistry. The scope is wider than the title suggests, especially in the chemical section, which includes accounts of the substances accompanying cholesterol from various sources, of the chemistry of lanosterol, the stereochemistry at C₍₂₀₎, and the action of x-rays on solutions of steroids. Accounts of the syn-

thesis of Δ^9 -anhydrocorticosterone acetate and of the infrared absorption spectra of trisubstituted steroidal olefines acknowledge the important relationship of Δ^9 -steroids with the 11-hydroxy corticoids.

At the colloquium the chemists could claim partial syntheses of all the then known adrenal hormones except Reichstein's compound C, and they reported new and practicable partial syntheses of cortisone. The biochemical discussions foreshadowed achievements subsequently won: electrocortin was yet the evasive mineralocorticoid spot on a paper chromatogram, and synthetic methods involving microbiological hydroxylation at C₍₁₁₎ were just becoming feasible.

The book contains authoritative comments on the biological tests and on the capabilities of new physical methods of isolating and identifying corticoids.

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Miscellaneous Publications

El Problema de las Razas Fisiológicas de Phytophthora infestans (Mont.) de Bary. Enrique de Rojas Peña.

Efecto de la N-Triclorometiltiotetrahidroftalamida en el control de Phytophthora infestans de la papa. Enrique de Rojas Peña and Nelson Estrada R. Información Técnica, vol. 1, No. 1. Ministerio de Agricultura, División de Investigación, Bogotá, Colombia, 1953. 78 pp. Illus.

La Librairie Masson & Cie, 1804-1954. A century and a half of medical and scientific publication. Masson & Cie, Paris, 1954. 53 pp. Illus.

New Genus and Species of Plankton Diatom from the Florida Straits. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., vol. 122, No. 14. Paul S. Conger. Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, 1954. 8 pp. + plates.

Overzicht van de Werkzaamheden in de Jaren 1952-1953. Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek, The Hague, Netherlands. 71 pp. Illus.

Clay Figurines of the American Southwest. Papers of the Peabody Museum, vol. 49, No. 1. Noel Morss. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard Univ., Cambridge 38, Mass., 1954. 115 pp. Illus. \$3.50.

Humanistisch en Religieus Standpunt in de Moderne Beschouwing van Sophocles. Mededelingen der Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, Afd. Letterkunde, vol. 17, No. 1. J. C. Opstelten. 49 pp. Fl. 2.50.

De Liturgische Oorsprong van het Theater. vol. 17, No. 2. B. Hunningher. 20 pp. Fl. 1.25. N. V. Noord-Hollandse Uitgevers Maatschappij, Amsterdam, 1954.

The Constituents of Pine Oleoresins, a Review. Bull. 19. P. M. Daugherty. 26 pp. Gratis. **Naval Stores Industries—Research Needs.** Bull. 20. T. A. Wastler. 63 pp. Illus. Engineering Expt. Sta., Georgia Inst. of Technology, Atlanta, 1954.

Der Lehrbrief über den Kreisumfang. Abhandlungen der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Klasse für Mathematik und allgemeine Naturwissenschaften, 1950, No. 6. Gamsīd B. Mas'ūd Al-Kāšī. Übersetzt und Erläutert. P. Luckey. 95 pp. DM. 20. **Untersuchungen über einige Fruktifikationen von Farnen und Pteridospermen.** 1952, No. 2. Winfried Remy. 38 pp. Illus. + plates. DM. 5.50. Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1953.