

Students of botany will find it extremely useful because of the complete bibliographies, as well as the interesting discussions on the general subject matter. All articles are presented in technical language, and their use will be largely restricted to students or at least to those with a broad background in biology.

These papers give a clear understanding of abnormalities in plants, together with factors that are known to cause them. Some portions suggest how plant tissues may be stimulated and how they may be retarded. Perchance the basic laws that apply to tissue stimulation eventually can be used in controlled stimulation of a desirable kind. With a better understanding of plant tissue stimulation, perhaps this knowledge can be applied to abnormalities in animal tissues so that more control can be applied to human maladies.

This symposium had as its purpose the assembling of information about abnormal plant growth so that others might be informed and stimulated to carry on in this important branch of research.

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Elsevier's Encyclopaedia of Organic Chemistry. ser. III: *Carboisocyclic compounds*; vol. 12B: *Naphthalene*, A. Compounds containing one naphthalene nucleus. F. Radt, Ed. Elsevier, Amsterdam-Houston, 1953. xlxiii + 703 pp. \$66 (ser. subscr. \$58; complete subscr. \$50).

The formidable cost of "Elsevier" has perhaps persuaded many people that "another Beilstein" was too much of a luxury, even though it offered the convenience of being written in English. I hope this review may convince a few such people that "Elsevier" has so much to offer that technical libraries cannot properly consider themselves adequate without it.

The extremely thorough literature coverage of the newest volume is complete through 1944, with additional structural data up to 1953. The information given is surprisingly detailed, lucid, and easy to follow. The needs of the scientist in fields peripheral to organic chemistry have been well attended to, both in the individual entries and in the index. The inclusion of several topic listings (such as "Growth promoting substances," under which each pertinent substance is listed with its page reference) should endear this work to the biologist and the applied chemist.

The unusual arrangement, wherein compounds of similar carbon skeleton are grouped together, regardless of the degree of saturation, and functional group subdivisions are subordinate to the broad division by skeletal types, is a more useful innovation than might at first appear. The great saving of the user's time, effected by having the most logically related compounds grouped together, should in a few years nearly pay the entire cost of the series for an industrial library.

The nomenclature is a delight; the compilers seem to have intuitively picked the names that the prac-

ticing organic chemist would use. Alternative names are given where necessary. Random checks of the accuracy and completeness of this work have evoked my admiration for the compilers' zeal. The literature has been abstracted with a most careful precision, and nothing pertinent seems to have been omitted.

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Index IX to the Literature of American Economic Entomology. Jan. 1, 1948-Dec. 31, 1949. Ina L. Hawes, compiler. Entomological Society of America, 1530 P St., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 1954. 528 pp. \$3.50.

This book is the latest issue of a series that has a venerable and distinguished history. The need for a reference work of this kind for the entomological profession was realized as long ago as 1882, at which time publication was authorized by the U.S. Congress of a *Bibliography of Economic Entomology*, parts 1 to 3 inclusive, 1860-1886, to be prepared later by B. Pickman Mann and Samuel Henshaw. This work, when finally published in 1890, was a 454-page, octavo, cloth-bound volume, carefully indexed, and limited in scope to a bibliography of the entomological writings of the noted entomologists Benjamin Dana Walsh and Charles Valentine Riley. Later, this was followed by parts 4 to 8, inclusive, with a total of 751 pages, uniform with the preceding, compiled by Henshaw and Nathan Banks, published by the Congress in 1895, 1896, 1898, and 1901, and covering all the more important contributions to American economic entomology down to the beginning of the calendar year 1905. Issued in very small edition, all these extremely useful volumes were soon completely out of print, and for many years each of them has been a collector's item.

Subsequent to 1 Jan. 1905, the cost of publication of this series, no longer borne by the Congress, was assumed by the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and the volumes were issued at irregular intervals under the title of *Index of American Economic Entomology*, and as numbered special publications. The first of these covered the years 1905-1914, in octavo cloth binding, was compiled by Banks and was issued in 1917. Indexes II to VI covered the years 1915-19, 1920-24, 1925-29, 1930-34, and 1935-39 and were compiled by Mabel Colcord. Index VII and subsequent issues have been compiled by Ina L. Hawes, assisted at various times by W. H. Mitchell, Ethel L. Coons, Alice Renk, S. W. Bromley, and others.

Beginning with Index VII, it became necessary to enlarge the geographic scope of the series to comprise continental North America, including Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Panama Canal Zone, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and certain other Pacific islands, particularly those that played a part in World War II. It also became desirable that the common names of insects be used, as approved by the Committee on Common Names of Insects. Index VII covers the years 1940-44; Index VIII, 1945-47; Index IX, 1948-49;