

Exchanges of water and electrolytes are much harder to study in fishes, chiefly because surfaces of exchange are more difficult to isolate and because handling disturbs their functions. If investigators could agree on two or three species for study, more rapid progress might be made. Available experiments show, however, that neurohypophysis and thyroid gland govern processes of osmoregulation. A large thyroid aids in retention of chloride and the elimination of water and, thus, enables fishes such as trout to survive in hypotonic media. By comparison, terrestrial animals need less thyroid activity for osmoregulation and use their smaller thyroid secretions for other targets.

At present, endocrine glands and their products appear to be qualitatively the same in all vertebrates. But the targets upon which they expend themselves show great variety. Thus, neurohypophyseal activity favors water retention, regardless of the tissues that accomplish the retention—skin, gills, mesonephros, metanephros. "The internal medium remains constant in the vertebrate body, and it may be that there is no change of the hormonal mechanisms which conserve it, only of the tissues which effect its conservation."

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Books Reviewed in

The Scientific Monthly, July

Stratigraphic Geology, M. Gignoux (Freeman). Reviewed by H. R. Gault.

Races and People, W. C. Boyd and I. Asimov (Abelard-Schuman). Reviewed by G. Hardin.

The Windward Road, A. Carr (Knopf). Reviewed by N. J. Berrill.

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La Prospection de l'Uranium, Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (Masson). Reviewed by E. W. Berry.

You and the Atom, G. Wendt (White-side and Morrow). Reviewed by B. C. Hendricks.

Elements of Quantitative Analysis, H. H. Willard, N. Howell, C. E. Bricker (Van Nostrand). Reviewed by M. G. Mellon.

Atom Harvest, L. Bertin (Secker & Warburg). Reviewed by R. A. Charpie.

Men, Rockets and Space Rats, L. Malan (Messner). Reviewed by S. F. Singer.

The Gardener's Bug Book, C. Westcott (American Garden Guild and Doubleday).

Famous Problems and Other Monographs, P. Klein, W. F. Sheppard, P. A. MacMahon, L. J. Mordell (Chelsea). Reviewed by A. Rosenthal.

New Books

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Acridines. R. M. Acheson and L. E. Orgel. Interscience, New York, 1956. 409 pp. \$12.50.

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Opinions and Personality. M. Brewster Smith, Jerome S. Bruner, Robert W. White. Wiley, New York; Chapman & Hall, London, 1956. 294 pp.

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Advances in Enzymology and Related Subjects of Biochemistry. vol. XVII. F. F. Nord, Ed. Interscience, New York, 1956. 556 pp. \$11.

Homological Algebra. Princeton Mathematical Ser. No. 19. Henri Cartan and Samuel Eilenberg. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1956. 390 pp. \$7.50.

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Handbook of Amphibians and Reptiles of Kansas. Misc. Publ. No. 9. Hobart M. Smith. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, ed. 2, 1956. 356 pp. Cloth, \$4; paper, \$1.50.

Miscellaneous Publications

(Inquiry concerning these publications should be addressed, not to Science, but to the publisher or agency sponsoring the publication.)

A Revision of the Genus Pselaphtrichus Brendel (Coleoptera: Pselaphidae). Publ. in Entomology, vol. 11, No. 2. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1956. 42 pp. \$1.

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