

Book Reviews

Evolution: the Ages and Tomorrow. G. Murray McKinley. Ronald Press, New York, 1956. 275 pp. \$4.

To generalize from one's professional experience holds a fascination for reflective men. In recent years, biologically grounded philosophies or philosophically grounded biologies have been written by many men, including Maritain and Bertalanffy, whose viewpoints are rather orthodox; Simpson and Haldane, whose viewpoints are materialistic; and Sinnott, who has followed a *via media*. G. Murray McKinley has now attempted to explore the philosophical consequences of evolution.

Chapters 1-6 summarize the mechanics of evolution and its historical course; chapters 7-12 are concerned with comparative psychology and sociology; and chapters 13-17 explore specific evolutionary-biological-sociological problems confronting man, and the entire thesis of the book is here summed up.

In brief, McKinley's thesis is "that very definitely there is purpose in the universe . . . there is but one over-all trend and direction to all phenomena—that of the eternal striving of cosmic energy toward greater conscious understanding." However, *purpose*, as here used, is not Divine purpose; it is simply a basic property of "mind-matter-energy." ". . . the carbon atom . . . is capable of forming exceedingly complex substances . . . we are assigning purpose to this atom when we review its behavior. . . ." Perhaps so, but this does so much violence to the usual definition that one wonders whether a construct based upon it can be other than misleading.

Biological data are presented so scantily and inaccurately that they are uninterpretable to biologists and uninterpretable to others. The entire phylogenetic record, both plant and animal, is summarized in 12 pages—little wonder that it is superficial. On page 49, we are told that "Man is a worm with accessories," while on page 50 the author concedes that the echinoderm theory of chordate origin is better founded. Population geneticists will be surprised to learn on page 42 that "Very small populations endanger the organism . . . due to the

purely random nature of the mutant changes . . .," while ". . . a group must be large enough to show gene drift by differential reproduction."

Those who are already in agreement with McKinley will find his book an interesting confirmation of their views, although they may be irritated by the numerous errors and logical gaps. Those who disagree with him are unlikely to be convinced.

EDWARD O. DODSON

University of Notre Dame

Dermatology. Donald M. Pillsbury, Walter B. Shelley, and Albert M. Kligman. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1956. 1331 pp. Illus. \$20.

This first edition is a cooperative appraisal of knowledge in the field of cutaneous medicine by members of one of the outstanding university departments of dermatology. Inasmuch as I was an undergraduate medical student in the University of Pennsylvania and later received my graduate training in the specialty at the Graduate School of Medicine of the same university, I am one of many who have been looking forward to this crystallization of the experience of the department of dermatology of that institution.

The first of the five general sections of the book covers fundamental principles in diseases of the skin; it is unusually well done and in itself makes the purchase of the volume a worth-while investment. The section is composed of a series of 13 superbly summarized essays on the basic sciences pertaining to dermatology. Of these, the chapters on keratinization, hair, skin glands, corium and subcutaneous tissue, and the fundamentals of cutaneous mycology and microbiology are outstanding.

The chapter on hereditary skin disorders begins with a useful 13-page outline of the fundamentals of inheritance. Equally worth while is the chapter on psychosomatic skin diseases, or psychocutaneous medicine—an important and difficult portion of the specialty.

The chapter on industrial dermatoses, a field in which I devoted full time to

research and investigation before the onset of World War II, is well written. It has been kept within space limitations by restricting it to a discussion of sources and a review of the industries in which occupational skin diseases most often occur.

Throughout the book, the authors have questioned the extent to which many widely held tenets of dermatology are sustained by experimental evidence; they have made a definite effort to weigh and evaluate the accumulated literature and to reach a decision on the validity of the often loosely reasoned acceptance of causal relationships in affairs of the skin.

In view of the meager time allotted to dermatology in the curriculums of most medical schools, Pillsbury, Shelley, and Kligman have wisely devoted more emphasis to their presentation of the basic science aspects of cutaneous medicine, although clinical detail has not been slighted. For this reason, the volume should prove to be especially useful as a textbook in schools where attempts are now being made to add cutaneous physiology and pathology to the subjects taught in the preclinical years.

The authors have maintained a high standard in their selection of illustrations and have drawn mainly on cases handled at the University of Pennsylvania during the last decade. The volume has a sturdy binding—an essential feature in a book that weighs 6½ pounds. The textbook ably fulfills the writers' aim to "keep in mind constantly the viewpoint of students and physicians who have had little or no experience with skin diseases and whose preclinical training has not included any acquaintance with the fundamental aspects of skin physiology."

This book contains 1117 illustrations.

LEON H. WARREN

Parke, Davis & Company

Treatise on Inorganic Chemistry. vol. II, *Sub-Groups of the Periodic Table and General Topics.* H. Remy. Translated by J. S. Anderson. J. Kleinberg, Ed. Elsevier, Amsterdam-Princeton, N.J., 1956. 800 pp. Illus. \$17.75.

This textbook, constituting volume II of Remy's *Treatise on Inorganic Chemistry*, is a translation based essentially on the seventh and eighth German editions, with new material added on chemical bonds, radioactivity, nuclear chemistry, and the transuranic elements. The first German edition appeared in 1931.

Volume II contains 19 chapters, an appendix, a name index, and a subject index. It is confined to the subgroups of the Periodic System and to general topics. The chapters are headed as follows: metals and intermetallic phases; third subgroup, scandium, yttrium, lanthanum,

and actinium; fourth subgroup, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, and thorium; fifth subgroup, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, and (protoactinium); sixth subgroup, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, and uranium; seventh subgroup, manganese, technetium, and rhenium; eighth subgroup, metals of the iron group and the platinum metals; first subgroup, copper, silver, and gold; second subgroup, zinc, cadmium, and mercury; the lanthanide series; radioactivity and isotopy; isotopy of the stable elements; artificial radioactivity and nuclear chemistry; the transuranic elements; distribution of the elements, geochemistry; colloids and surface chemistry; catalysis and reaction kinetics; reactions in nonaqueous solutions; reactions of solid substances.

Volume I (not reviewed here) consists of 18 chapters which cover the remaining chemical elements of the Periodic System as well as such subjects as valence and affinity, crystal structure and x-rays, constitution and properties, coordination theory, alloys, oxidation and reduction, salt formation and neutralization, the hydrogen spectrum, and the Periodic System.

Volume II in its translated form is a welcome addition to the literature in English on inorganic chemistry. The subject matter of the chapters is well chosen and presented. The descriptive sections are enhanced in value through numerous tables and figures. As a college textbook it should appeal to the student. As a ready reference work for the research chemist or engineer, it should serve a useful purpose. The translator has turned the German text into smooth, excellent English.

RALEIGH GILCHRIST

National Bureau of Standards

Exploration for Nuclear Raw Materials.

Robert D. Nininger, Ed. Van Nostrand, Princeton, N.J., 1956. 293 pp. Illus. \$7.50.

This is one of the Geneva Series on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy under the editorship of James G. Beekley.

Part I describes the geology of uranium and thorium from genesis to natural occurrence of these two elements, drawing upon five of the 96 papers from 17 countries presented at Geneva in August 1955. The five used are all by American authors with about half of the first part taken from P. F. Kerr's "Natural occurrence of uranium and thorium."

Part II discusses the techniques of prospecting for these two elements and draws on 25 of the 27 Geneva papers in this field presented from nine countries. After the expected techniques are described, botanical and hydrogeochemical

prospecting are described. Then comes a discussion of exploratory drilling, finally a chapter on subsurface radiometric technique. The index seems to be complete.

Considering that this book is a composite, edited from 103 papers, one can understand that it is slow reading. Nininger has accomplished a wonderful job in putting it together with coherence and clarity. He has taken the papers, sorted them out into logical order, and made a readable book. It should have a place awaiting it.

E. WILLARD BERRY

Duke University

Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl. H.

Albert Hochbaum. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1955. xii + 301 pp. Illus. \$5.

To a lifelong student of migration, like myself, this latest work from the pen of "Al" Hochbaum can be cited only with acclaim. It is replete with his personal experiences as director for 14 years of the Waterfowl Research Station at Delta, Manitoba. In addition, the author shows an almost voracious appetite for the literature bearing on this fascinating subject. The book is exceptionally well documented with quotations from many experts in the field, all well tied to the author's own observations and experiences. As is indicated by the title, it is heavily slanted toward the movements of waterfowl, although the migratory habits of the song and other nongame species are brought into the picture.

The work is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the "Travels of waterfowl" and, under chapter headings, discusses the patterns of local movement; learned response to the environment; the visual world; the function of memory; the aerial environment; and awareness of time and space. Part II is headed "Migrations of waterfowl" and has chapters on the cycle of migration; flight trails south; homeward migration; the classification of waterfowl travel; the dimensions of travel; the influence of bad weather; overseas migration; and awareness of direction. Part III, "Traditions of waterfowl" has chapters on biological traditions; building new traditions; tradition and racial isolation; and broken traditions. The book concludes with a well-organized bibliography; a short chapter on the nomenclature of birds in which the author presents a list (both vernacular and scientific names) of the birds mentioned in the text, preceded by comments of his own, chiefly on the spelling of certain names; acknowledgments to his many colleagues and collaborators; a list of specialists; and a subject index.

The entire work is in lay language

with a delightful blend of the experiences of the naturalist and hunter with those of the scientist. To this end, the serious student of migration, the amateur naturalist, and the sportsman will find in it much food for reflective thought. Not all specialists will agree with some of Hochbaum's conclusions, but all will agree that, almost without exception, he presents lucid discussions of the known facts. To condense into 300 pages of readable prose so much of our present-day knowledge of bird migration is a major accomplishment and marks the *Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl* as a distinctive book.

It would do the author an injustice to refrain from reference to the many excellent illustrations—also from his pen. They show that he is as competent as an artist as he is as a naturalist. It also should be recorded that in October 1945 Hochbaum was awarded the coveted Brewster medal by the American Ornithologists' Union in recognition of the high caliber of his earlier work *The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh*, which was also based upon his waterfowl studies at the Delta Research Station.

FREDERICK C. LINCOLN

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Electricité. Y. Rocard. Masson, Paris, ed. 2, 1956. 613 pp. Illus. Cloth, F. 3500; paper, F. 3000.

In this work the author attempts to describe all electric and electromagnetic phenomena from those found in a first course in physics to those in a graduate-level course in electricity. On the average, the plane of discussion is near that of an intermediate course in electricity. It is assumed that the reader has some facility in mathematics and thus is familiar with the common vector operations, simple manipulations with complex variables, linear differential equations, and series expansions.

The book is characterized by considerable breadth in the range of topics treated. This range is indicated by a list of the section headings: electrostatics, magnetism, electrokinetics, electrodynamics, alternating currents, propagation of radiation, free electrons (including electron optics, photoelectricity, thermionic emission, and electron tubes), ionic conductors and semiconductors, and units.

A strong point of the work is that the author gives a clear and logical physical description of each phenomenon he introduces and thus keeps in focus the field of electricity as interrelated physical phenomena. The related mathematical treatment is given secondary emphasis. A great many illustrative examples are solved in order to show the applications