

form of terse, concise reviews, with extensive references to the Russian and Western literature. A few of the chapter headings will serve to illustrate the subject matter covered: "Nuclear fission theory" (B. T. Geilikman); "Fast Neutron fission cross sections" (U. S. Zamiatin); "Charge and mass distributions of fission products" (A. N. Murin); "Theory of fission of heavy nuclei near threshold" (V. G. Nosov); "Fission Neutrons" (B. G. Erokolimskii); "Spontaneous fission of heavy nuclei" (K. A. Petrzhak).

Although, as the editors of *Atomic Energy* remark, the problems reviewed in the reports have not been solved in the two years that have passed since the conference was held, it is nevertheless true that this book is in the process of becoming dated. The subject of fission by mesons, for example, is one which is mentioned in the current literature but which is missing from the conference reports.

It is apparent that this book is not directed toward the beginner, who requires selectivity in the material presented to him in order to avoid confusion; it is, rather, for the workers in this field who wish to keep informed of new developments. The book is priced rather high, but this may be due to the high costs of translation. J. E. S. Bradley is credited with the excellent translation.

An interesting feature of the book is the fact that it reveals the state the Russians had achieved in fission physics at the time of the conference; it contains evaluations, by physicists who appear to be very competent, of Russian and Western efforts in this field.

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### An Introduction to Medical Mycology.

George M. Lewis, Mary E. Hopper, J. Walter Wilson, and Orda A. Plunkett. Year Book Publishers, Chicago, ed. 4, 1958. xvii + 453 pp. Illus. \$15.

Few books have been as influential as Lewis and Hopper's in furthering the development of medical mycology. The first edition was published in 1939 shortly after an upsurge of interest in mycotic diseases began. It served as an authoritative guide to physicians and research workers who desired to know more about the subject. Subsequent editions have kept pace with the developments in this field and have met the needs for a practical text. The fourth edition has been extensively revised and expanded, with the collaboration of Wilson and Plunkett. Where formerly the greatest emphasis was placed on the cutaneous my-

coses, now the systemic mycoses receive almost equal coverage. Another significant change lies in the long-delayed adoption of the valid names for the dermatophytes. However, an occasional lapse is noted. In Table 8, *Trichophyton niveum* is cited as a species distinct from *T. mentagrophytes*, and on page 214 a separate paragraph is devoted to *Microsporum simiae*, an organism that is considered by most authorities to be identical with *M. canis*.

The subject matter is well organized, lucidly presented, and arranged so that specific information is easily found. After a brief introductory description of the superficial mycoses, most of the etiologic agents are presented in separate chapters. Generally each chapter covers the following topics: etiology, clinical characteristics, differential diagnosis, pathogenesis, mycology, immunologic reaction, prognosis, and treatment. Where necessary, sections on history, geographic distribution, and prophylaxis are included. The 10 chapters on the deep mycoses are presented in a similar manner. Pertinent references are found at the end of each chapter.

In addition, there are sections on the physiology and nutritional requirements of the dermatophytes, the immunology and allergic reactions of the dermatophytes, treatment of the superficial mycoses, immunology and allergic reactions in the deep mycoses, fungus diseases and workmen's compensation, fundamentals of elementary mycology, methods of diagnosis, laboratory methods, experimental aspects, and contaminants.

This publication is lavishly illustrated with informative clinical photographs and illustrations of the gross and microscopic characteristics of both pathogenic and saprophytic fungi. Line drawings of the diagnostic features of common molds and yeasts enhance the value of the chapter on contaminants.

The book is bound attractively and is printed in a legible type face on high-quality paper. This edition should prove to be even more useful than its predecessors.

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### New Books

*Principles of Quantum Electrodynamics.* Walter E. Thirring. Translated from the German by J. Bernstein. Academic Press, New York, 1958. 249 pp. \$8.

*Reader in Comparative Religion.* An anthropological approach. William A. Lessa and Evon Z. Vogt, Eds. Row, Peterson, Evanston, Ill., 1958. 611 pp.

*Sampled-Data Control Systems.* John R. Ragazzini and Gene F. Franklin. Mc-

Graw-Hill, New York, 1958. 340 pp. \$9.50.

*A Scientist of Two Worlds: Louis Agassiz.* Catherine Owens Peare. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1958. 188 pp. \$3.

*Soviet Research in Crystallography.* Chemistry Collection No. 5, vols. 1 and 2. English translation. Consultants Bureau, New York, 1958. 618 pp. vol. 1, \$30; vol. 2, \$100; Set, \$115.

*Stellar Populations.* Proceedings of the conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Science and the Vatican Observatory, 20-28 May 1957. D. J. K. O'Connell. North-Holland, Amsterdam; Interscience, New York, 1958. 544 pp. \$10.

*A Stereoscopic Atlas of Human Anatomy.* Section IV, *The Thorax.* View-Master reels 113-122 and 123-132. David L. Bassett. Sawyer's, Portland, Ore., 1958.

*The Structure of Steel.* A simple explanation for students, engineers, and buyers of steel. Edwin Gregory and Eric N. Simons. Philosophical Library, New York, 1958. 176 pp. \$10.

*The Study of the Physical World.* Nicholas D. Cheronis, James B. Parsons, Conrad E. Ronneberg. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, ed. 3, 1958. 693 pp. \$7.50.

*A Survey of European Civilization.* Wallace K. Ferguson and Geoffrey Bruun. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, ed. 3, 1958. 1028 pp. \$8.25.

*Systematics of Today.* Proceedings of a symposium held at the University of Uppsala in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Carolus Linnaeus. Olov Hedberg, Ed. Uppsala Universitets, Uppsala, Sweden, 1958. 243 pp.

*Les Techniques et le philosophe.* Pierre Ducassé. Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1958. 191 pp. F. 800.

*Thirst.* Physiology of the urge to drink and problems of water lack. A. V. Wolf. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1958. 546 pp. \$12.50.

*Topologie algébrique et théorie des faisceaux.* Publications de l'Institut de Mathématique de l'Université de Strasbourg. vol. XIII. Roger Godement. Hermann, Paris, 1958 (order from Pierre Berès, 681 Fifth Avenue, New York). 291 pp.

*What We Must Know about Communism.* Harry and Bonaro Overstreet, Norton, New York, 1958. 348 pp. \$3.95. "We have written this book because we had to." The Overstreets feel that the point in time is here when each individual must accept his responsibility and obligation to know the character of this new force (Communism) which "claims the human future as its own," and "to convert such knowledge into awareness of what is at stake and what needs to be done."

*An Introduction to the Chemistry of Fats and Fatty Acids.* F. D. Gunston. Wiley, New York, 1958. 171 pp.

*Mind and Matter.* Erwin Schrodinger. Cambridge Univ. Press, New York, 1958. 111 pp. \$2.75.

*A Natural History of Inhaca Island, Mocambique.* William Macnae and Margaret Kalk. Witwatersrand Univ. Press, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1958. 163 pp. 42s.