

given attention to spores of mosses; thus, these illustrations are especially helpful.

Afzelius' discussion covers the use of new techniques such as phase contrast, ultraviolet light, polarization, interference, and electron microscopy. The use of these aids is just beginning and in time will contribute to the interpretation of the minute details of pollen-wall structure. A few of the species already studied by electron microscopy of ultrathin sections show that exine is homogeneous and thus not properly divisible into the sexine and nexine layers.

Pragloiski gives detailed instructions about methods of embedding pollen or spores in methacrylate and of making the modifications of the block and microtome necessary to secure sections of from 0.25 to 0.50 microns in thickness.

It is regrettable that text and illustrations were not published together. The change of the series title from the *Pollen Morphology and Plant Taxonomy* of volume I to that of the present book presents a cataloging problem in that each volume has a separate call number and thus they are not shelved together.

This book will be a major reference volume for palynologists.

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Abortion in the United States. A conference sponsored by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., at Arden House and the New York Academy of Medicine. Mary Steichen Calderone, Ed. Hoeber-Harper, New York, 1958. vii + 224 pp. \$5.50.

Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion. Paul H. Gebhard, Wardell B. Pomeroy, Clyde E. Martin, and Cornelia V. Christenson. Hoeber-Harper, New York, 1958. xiii + 282 pp. Illus. \$6.

One of the most important medico-legal and sociological problems in human eugenics today is induced or criminal abortion. Although the medical profession has been long aware of the magnitude of this problem, it has not been apparent to the general public. Little knowledge has been available concerning the frequency of the procedure in single and married women; its impact on the individual, the family and society; or the basic reasons for seeking an abortion. Such basic information is of paramount importance in the development of rational measures to combat this undesirable practice.

Two very informative books on this subject have just been published, and together they provide a wealth of data on the abortion problem. The first book, *Abortion in the United States*, is the re-

port of a conference on abortion sponsored by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The late Alfred Kinsey, a member of a panel at this conference, was motivated to initiate the second study, *Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion*.

Abortion in the United States is a report of a conference on the problem of induced abortion—criminal and therapeutic. The 38 participants included physicians, sociologists, psychologists, religious leaders, and other interested individuals. At the present time there are no laws which control the practice of illegal abortions. The woman who resorts to pregnancy termination is often emotionally disturbed. Family, social, and economic factors may enter into the causation of the pregnancy and its undesirable end. Induced abortions may be traumatic experiences for the individuals involved and do not solve underlying basic problems. Induced abortions grossly estimated at more than one million per year are not in the medical, social, and public interest, and steps should be taken to reduce the incidence appreciably.

The members of the panel suggested the following five steps to reduce the frequency of induced abortion:

- 1) Medical, psychological, and social studies of women seeking abortions should be sponsored by governmental and private agencies.

- 2) Consultation centers for women seeking abortions, such as are found in Scandinavian countries, should be established; the main function of these would be to help women realize that abortion is not the only solution to the problem.

- 3) Facilities for obtaining contraceptive advice under medical supervision should be improved, although it has not been definitely established that availability of contraceptive advice will decrease the number of induced abortions.

- 4) There should be early, continued, realistic sex education.

- 5) There should be a joint effort on the part of all bodies concerned to study present-day abortion laws of the various states and frame a practical, workable statute which could be adopted on a nationwide basis.

Pregnancy, Birth and Abortion is the third volume published by the Institute of Sex Research. The authors have analyzed pregnancy out of wedlock and induced abortion from all aspects, utilizing coded interviews with 7074 women, of whom 1209 were prison inmates. The book is concerned with conceptions among unmarried females and the prevalence of induced illegal abortions among married and unmarried women in this country. It is noteworthy that 75 percent of married women experience a live birth, 25 percent experience one or more spontaneous abortions, and 25 percent

admit to one or more induced abortions. The total number of abortions in married women is greater than in the unmarried, although fewer married women have induced abortions. The incidence of abortion in married women decreases as the level of their education is raised. Ten percent of unmarried women experience pregnancy by age 30, and 89 percent of these pregnancies are terminated by abortion. The incidence of abortion in previously married women is 79 percent. The average woman regards the divorcee as a sexual competitor.

The age of the woman at the time of her marriage, the decade in which she was born, and the intensity of her religious faith were studied. Methods of inducing abortion as well as the prevailing cost were investigated. Surprisingly, the ill effects of abortion were found to be few, and the procedure did not interfere with sexual enjoyment or the possibility of marriage.

The volume contains an abundance of factual material of great interest to the physician, the sociologist, the psychologist, and others interested in an important problem.

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Quantitative Inorganic Analysis. G. Charlot and Denise Bézier. Translated by R. C. Murray. Methuen, London; Wiley, New York, ed. 3, 1957. x + 691 pp. Illus. \$15.

This text is a faithful translation of the original French version published in 1955, even to the reproduction of the figures and tables. By a more condensed printing, the number of pages has been reduced by about 130. The chapter numbers in part II have been deleted.

Part I, comprising 33 chapters which take up half the book, deals with the various types of analytical chemical operations, such as acidimetry, oxidimetry, titrimetry, precipitation and separation by precipitation, chromatography and ion-exchange, separation by distillation, determination by means of different solvents, extraction, gravimetric methods, instrumental analysis, spectrophotometry, colorimetry, spectrography, electrometric analysis, polarography, potentiometric analysis, coulometry, methods utilizing radioactivity, determination of trace elements, methods of effecting solution of samples, and gas analysis, as well as discussions of precision of measurement and statistical methods. In this new edition the principal instrumental methods—absorption spectrophotometric and electrochemical—have been treated fully.