Information Storehouse

The Mammalian Egg. C. R. Austin. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1961. viii + 183 pp. Illus. $9.

The book's brief and general title justifies an explanatory comment about the scope; the book is a detailed review, from the cytological viewpoint, with emphasis on ovum stages from primary oocyte through cleavage. A short opening section includes historical highlights and illustrations, a perceptive explanation that fertilization is not concerned with multiplication of individuals, and some information on egg sizes, which brings volume as well as diameter into consideration. A closing section discusses the manipulation of eggs. The central and major part of the book is a section entitled "Structure and Function in Mammalian Eggs." The cytological orientation is reflected by its outline, which begins with the nucleus and progresses outward through the cytoplasm to a closing unit on membranes and investments.

The book's systematic organization, its similarly orderly subdivisions, the several tables that combine information from various sources, and the frequent literature citations, as well as a five-page subject index, a 27-page bibliography and author index, and a two-page index of organisms—all are very helpful to the reader seeking specific information. So are the two especially meaty appendices that summarize, in 24 pages, the literature and pertinent facts about egg transfer and culture.

The systematic organization brings many subjects into a final subdivision, according to species. There the richness of documentation tends to obscure the train of thought. Consequently, the book is less suitable for casual reading than for retrieval of information. Nevertheless, it will appeal to the nonspecialist as well as to the specialist because of its illustrations, which are not only numerous and pertinent but often artistically outstanding despite the technical difficulties imposed by the material. Some of the color plates are out of sequence, but the figure legends are correct, and no misunderstanding results. With that exception, the book is remarkably free of mechanical defects.

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Fungus Diseases

Manuale di Micologia Medica. vol. 2. Rafaele Ciferri. Renzo Cortina, Pavia, Italy, 1960. 796 pp. Illus. L. 12,000.

Volume 1 of this comprehensive treatise on medical mycology, which was published in 1959, served as a general introduction to the study of the human mycoses and their etiologic agents [*Science* **129**, 1272 (1959)].

This second and final volume presents, in detail, current knowledge on human fungus diseases. The information is divided into 16 chapters, each of which, except for the final one, is organized under the following headings: definition, geographic distribution, hosts, etiology, clinical description, examination of clinical material, isolation and identification of cultures, histopathology, experimental pathology, immunology, prognosis, and treatment. The last chapter describes allergies due to fungi, mycotoxicosis, mycoses of unusual etiology, and commensal algae.

An extensive bibliography (178 pages), gathered together at the end of the book, was compiled for each chapter. The literature has been covered with commendable thoroughness and without geographic bias. A comprehensive index for both volumes concludes the book.

The large volume is well bound and printed on high-quality paper. Diligent proofreading is evident from the small number of typographical errors noted. The text is amply illustrated with black-and-white clinical pictures, photomicrographs, and line drawings. Fifteen color plates are included to depict the clinical features, cultural characteristics, and the histology of certain fungus diseases and pathogenic fungi.

Although the author's stated intention was to prepare a beginner's guide to medical mycology, this book will probably be of greater value to the experienced medical mycologist. The neophyte will find enlightenment in the concise summation of up-to-date knowledge about fungus diseases and their causative agents. However, the introduction of new and controversial concepts regarding the etiology of certain diseases, as well as debatable ideas regarding the nomenclature, phylogeny, and taxonomy of many fungi will be a source of confusion to him. To cite a few examples: the common saprophyte, *Aureobasidium pullulans*, is considered to be the cause of tinea nigra, and *Pityrosporium ovale* is claimed to be the agent of tinea versicolor. No experimental proof for these statements is offered.

Although a number of competent investigators have shown that *Trichophyton epilans, T. fumatum, T. sabouraudii,* and *T. sulphureum* are identical to *T. tonsurans,* these organisms are still treated as distinct and valid species in this book.

In addition, the introduction of controversial material involving changes in nomenclature and the creation of new varieties is not recommended for a beginner's text. Such considerations are best reserved for presentation and discussion in appropriate journals.

All in all, the book's chief virtue lies in the thoroughness with which its subject matter is compiled. The challenging, stimulating, and often controversial concepts of the author, however, demand a great deal of experience on the part of the reader for proper appreciation and evaluation.

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In 3-D and Full Color

A Stereoscopic Atlas of Human Anatomy. Section 5, *The Abdomen* (140 views; 295 pp., 2 vols., $16.50); Section 6, *The Pelvis* (154 views; 320 pp., 2 vols., $19.50). David L. Bassett. Sawyer's, Portland, Ore., 1961.

Sections 5 (on the abdomen) and 6 (on the pelvis) continue the excellent dissections and color photography (in stereoscopic transparencies) that have characterized preceding sections of this atlas. Each view is explained in the appropriate volume by a line drawing in which principal anatomical details are identified. The *Nomina Anatomica* terminology (Paris, 1955) is used. Arteries injected with red latex, and veins with blue, add to the vivid details in each view.

A number of unusually instructive approaches are presented. These graphically delineate details and relations seldom seen in their entirety in conventional dissecting room procedures. The dissections of hepatic and pancreatic duct systems and the details of autonomic, lymphatic, arterial, and venous relations, shown in Section 5, are espe-