Historia. Thus, the series now represents an example of successful international cooperation in science.

The main purpose of the *Yearbook* has always been to reproduce photographically some of the more significant articles of the particular year in the broad field of physical anthropology. This has served to give them more emphasis and wider distribution, especially to members of the profession in out-of-the-way places where library facilities are meager. Because the editors of all the volumes have been teachers, the utility of the contents for students' use probably has been an important, if not always a stressed, factor in the process of selection.

Lasker was faced with a formidable task in deciding on the composition of the interim volume, since he had nine times more material to review, but no more pages to fill, than for a normal issue. He seems to have approached the task without qualms, and perhaps even with relish, conditioned to it as he must be by having served as editor or coeditor of all but one of the previous volumes. His 22 selections are irregularly representative of the 9-year period; none is from the year 1955, but nine are from the years 1956 and 1957. As for the articles themselves, I would agree with Lasker's opinion that the selection "has taken into account not only wide coverage of current trends and knowledgeability of the authorities included, but also whether the mode of expression is intelligible even to those with a minimum prior familiarity with the technical lingo of the science." In addition, each article is given perspective in an editorial comment which usually includes citations of pertinent references. All articles are in English.

From the 1962 publications Kelso selected 28 articles, including three in French and one in German, which required only 50 pages more than volume 9 contains. Only three of the authors represented in volume 9 reappear in volume 10. However, one looks in vain for the useful editorial comment on each article. In the absence of any such indication of editorial guidelines, the basis for selection is not always clear and, in my opinion, the "mode of expression" is not quite equal to that of the previous volume.

Whatever one may think of the individual selections, and this gets into the realm of personal interests, the present review is not the place to enter into such details. Both volumes eminently serve their purposes, not the least being simply the indication by members of the profession of the contributions regarded as particularly useful. In general, it is safe to say that anyone interested in the latest chapters of the story of man, and willing to tackle articles at the technical level, will find much of interest in these selections.

T. D. STEWART
Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

Chemistry and Biology

Chemical Background for the Biological Sciences. Emil H. White. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1964. viii + 152 pp. Illus. Paper, $1.95; cloth, $4.95.

The series of small textbooks in biology for which the present book proposes to serve as a chemical background includes a number of distinguished volumes each of which has rather successfully summarized one specific aspect of biology. Whether the present attempt to provide a "chemical background for the biological sciences" in 152 pages is also successful is, in some degree, a matter of taste. Patently, any book so restricted in length must fail in some regard to satisfy an already knowledgeable reader. The space available scarcely permits an introduction to chemistry, much less an indication of the relationships between the operation of the chemical principles which are presented and structure or function in the living world. The following remarks are offered with this restriction in mind.

The author has constructed an excellent introduction to organic chemistry. Modern electronic concepts of organic molecules are presented clearly, with excellent illustrations, and electronic mechanisms of organic reactions serve as the theme of the entire volume. One might have hoped, however, that even within the treatment of organic chemistry the illustrative examples chosen would bear some close relation to the problems of biological chemistry. Thus, the reactions used to synthesize polypeptides or degrade carbohydrates must surely be of greater interest to the presumptive reader of this series than, for example, the synthesis of saccharin or group migration during the reaction of aliphatic amines with nitrous acid.

In contrast to the excellent outline of organic chemistry, there is a decided paucity of information concerning the nature and properties of inorganic compounds, of organometallics, or of chelates. Physicochemical principles receive short shrift generally, and the brief statement of thermodynamic principles appears quite inadequate. A total of 23 pages is devoted to a sketchy catalog of "natural products," a catalog that conveys little understanding, whereas many of the compounds so listed are treated in extenso in other volumes of the series. Accordingly, I would have preferred omission of this catalog and a more extensive use of such natural products as the examples used to illustrate organic reactions. Alternatively, the space thus conserved might well have been used to extend the treatment of physical principles, to discuss the relationship between absorption spectra and molecular structure, or to discuss *why* asymmetric compounds rotate the plane of polarized light, among other topics. Perhaps this is but the prejudice of a biochemist, but I must conclude that, whereas White has provided an elegant introduction to organic chemistry from the standpoint of an organic chemist, the student of the life sciences will not find this a sufficient introduction to chemistry for his purposes.

PHILIP HANDLER
Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition, Duke University

Botany

Laboratory Techniques in Botany. M. J. Purvis, D. C. Collier, and D. Walls. Butterworth, Washington, D.C., 1964. viii + 371 pp. Illus. $11.50.

This book makes available a wealth of technical detail. The authors, technicians at University College, London, have apparently pooled the useful information that has accrued to them through broad experience in the botanical laboratory. Copiously illustrated, the book carries 155 figures (line drawings and photographs) and includes 14 tables. The line drawings are adequate but not attractive. Users of the book who reside in the United States will find that many of the supply sources and trade names listed are unfamiliar, since those provided are predominantly British, and some read-