book was written studies on indices have developed considerably. . . .") may mean that the Russians are about to announce the discovery of value added by manufacture. A section entitled "Examples of the application of composite indices in the Soviet Union and in People's Poland" is not very informative because there is no reference to anything that happened after 1952. A longer section, "Composite indices in the statistics of capitalist countries," makes the general point that such indexes may be completely unrealistic; if they are not it is usually a matter of coincidence, and even in the case of "correct indices published in capitalist countries a critical evaluation of their applicability from the point of view of Marxian theory is advisable." The only reference to Western literature in this section is to Irving Fisher's *The Making of Index Numbers* (1922).

Three appendixes discuss smoothing, interpolation, and rounding at the same level as the main text. These are followed by scanty statistical tables of normal curve areas, the *t* distribution, the chi-square distribution, and random numbers. An additional table of squares, square roots, and reciprocals seems a little archaic. A "name index" with 136 entries becomes less impressive when one notes that these are names, not citations, and that nearly half of the entries should be dated prior to 1900. The list includes Artaxerxes, Bonaparte N., Carl the Great, Cyrus, David (not F. N., but the one who had a census taken with somewhat disastrous results for Israel), Louis XIV, Moses, Peter I, William the Conqueror, and other eminent statistical practitioners. To be fair, the most frequently noted are K. Pearson and J. Neyman. Next in line is W. I. Lenin. Marx and R. A. Fisher are accorded one mention each.

The translation misses the idiomatic by a wide margin, but the meaning is usually clear, at least from the context. Surprisingly, for a work which lists a translator (J. Stadler) and two translation editors (H. Infeld and C. D. I. Forrester), the book is poorly or carelessly edited.

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Introductory College Biology Textbook

Plant Diversification (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, New York, 1966. 157 pp. Paper, $2.25), by Theodore Delevoryas, is presented as one volume in a series of ten designed for coordinated use in teaching introductory college biology. Delevoryas states that he wishes to present "certain topics of special evolutionary interest and to develop them more fully than is possible in a survey of all the plants." Like all methods, this approach has its advantages and drawbacks. Evolutionary principles, in my opinion, tend to emerge most clearly following a detailed survey of at least certain groups. Delevoryas, as might be expected, presents his own interest, paleobotany, in generous measure. Few other authors would have stressed fossil plants to such a great extent. This viewpoint is a quite legitimate one, however.

Selection of materials for an elementary text inevitably produces arbitrary inclusions and exclusions: for example, bryophytes receive scant mention and are not illustrated, while several types of life cycles in red algae are illustrated. The text is clearly written and accurate.

The illustrations of fossil plants are excellent. For living plants, drawings have evidently been designed so as to be simple and uncluttered; some tend to be two-dimensional and textbookish, however. One regrets that few illustrations are original; most were taken directly from other sources, or were redrawn. This results in some mediocre illustrations: why, for example, should the illustrations of a sunflower have been redrawn from those in an old botany textbook when fresh material of this plant is so readily available? The fruit of *Bidens* is inexplicably inverted. A dehiscing fruit of *Ecballium* appears to have a second pedicel, at the distal end of the fruit, which attaches to the stem. The shoot apex of *Syringa* is in poor focus. The photograph of a vessel is not likely to impart a clear impression of the nature of a vessel. We are offered drawings of a gametophyte and gametangia of a fern, but no sporangia, spores, embryos, or sporophytes. Drawings of the life history of a pine do not include embryos. I find the drawings of angiosperm steles and nodes misleading. A uniformly excellent level of illustration is very difficult to achieve, and one can sympathize with the problems involved.

Despite the merits of Delevoryas's contribution to this series of complementary texts, one may question the success of the experiment as a whole. The goal of truly coordinated volumes within a series is nearly impossible; even if it were achieved, cross-reference would be awkward. For example, although there is a volume on ecology within the series, ecology is stressed elsewhere: Delevoryas's discussion of angiosperms is built on ecological adaptation. The ten volumes of the series might offer flexibility for teaching elementary biology, but this poses problems: if one does not use all ten, how are lacunae to be avoided? Use of a series rather than a single volume is undeniably cumbersome. This scheme will appeal most to those who enjoy its novelty, or who actively desire liberation from a single text. We can thank the publishers for giving us the opportunity to judge this alternative. The problems involved in this arrangement, however, offer so many difficulties that the majority of professors may decide that a single, large, hardcover text is not a Procrustean device but just the unifying touch needed in a biology course. If one chooses a single textbook, one has a wide choice among attractive and appealing botany, zoology, and biology texts. With the series scheme, however, one has little choice but Holt, Rinehart & Winston's authors and their viewpoints. One notes that other publishers currently show little desire to emulate the idea.

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Classification of the Teredinidae

Perhaps in its more radical departures from the dreary wastelands of the dry-shell approach this book, **A Survey and Illustrated Catalogue of the Teredinidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia)** (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1966. 275 pp.), which is concerned with the systematics of shipworms, indicates a new trend in molluscan taxonomic practice. In the hope of find-