this translation, the approach and the information presented are perhaps more representative of 1956 than of 1968.

The author's stated intention was to consider the evolution of slopes and the cycle of erosion under the following climates: normal, tropical, arid, semiarid, savanna, and periglacial. Nevertheless, the first third of the book is a general review of the processes of rock weathering, hillslope erosion, and river mechanics. Considerably more complete reviews of this material are presently available in English, and little is gained from this first part of the book. The remaining two-thirds of the book is a discussion of erosional processes and landform evolution under the different climatic environments. Much of this material is very interesting. However, many statements are made in a dogmatic fashion without supporting references, and it is difficult to separate fact from hypothesis. In view of the increasing amount of quantitative information on erosion rates and the hydrology of humid, subhumid, and semiarid regions, one would expect that in a truly up-to-date volume an attempt to summarize this information and to bring it to bear on the problems of landform evolution would be made.

A relatively serious criticism is that the author frequently refers to what is presumably relatively recent detailed research without providing a reference to it. There are six pages of references at the end of the book, but many of these are not cited in the text, and some of the most interesting work cited in the text has not been included among the references. For example, on page 85 the "notable work of Lamego (1938)" is mentioned, but Lamego's name doesn't appear among the references. Such a casual approach toward referencing seriously detracts from the purpose of the translation, which was to bring to an English-speaking audience a review and summary of the results of European climatic-geomorphic research.

For these reasons, the book is a disappointment. This is unfortunate for the French geomorphologists, and Birot himself has much more to offer than is presented here. Nevertheless, the author does raise many interesting questions in this book, and it is clear that here is a subject that deserves further investigation. In addition, Birot's description of his field observations in Brazil and his evidence that sugarloaf mountains are definitely related to fracture patterns are a welcome revelation. The application of this conclusion to the origin of other isolated erosional remnants (inselberg) relieves geomorphologists of the burden of attempting to explain their origin without structural controls.

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Contributions to Biology

Investigations into Generation, 1651–1828. ELIZABETH B. GASKING. Hutchinson, London, 1967, 30 s.; Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1967, $6. 192 pp., illus.

This book is a selective review, exposition, and critique of the history of theories of generation during the 17th and 18th centuries. "Generation" is taken to refer to the origin of new living organisms, chiefly by sexual reproduction, and to include a characterization of the nature of development of the new individual. Besides chapters dealing with the concepts of preformation, animalculism, ovism, epigenesis, and their modifications in the course of progressive investigations, whole chapters are devoted to Harvey, Maupertuis, Wolff, Haller, Bonnet, Spallanzani, Prévost and Dumas, and von Baer. Bibliography and index are appended, and there is also a time chart of significant dates in the development of the concepts discussed.

The work receives high marks for bringing its subject up to date for the general scientific reader interested in intelligent historical reconstruction and interpretation. The present reviewer cannot help feeling—perhaps fancifully—that we have here a model for a series of scholarly and thoughtful lectures on a topic that has been parroted and vulgarized beyond rational comprehension in generations of textbooks. One sees the author selecting, with critical rigor, a limited number of sequential contributions to the subject, and embodying each one in a brief, economical chapter. Each chapter in turn bears the marks of careful selection, doing justice to individual contributions, emphasizing their interrelations and their intrinsic logic and development without burying the whole in detail or irrelevant commentary. The approach is that of understanding scientific thinking in the context of a man's own work and of the scientific milieu.

A reviewer, even if not an expert, is permitted to record some personal reactions. I found some chapters more successful than others. Those on Harvey and Spallanzani seemed particularly clear and concise; that on Bonnet was perhaps most stimulating in impelling one to go back to the original writings. The brief extracts from von Baer's thought were less well chosen and cogent than I had hoped. One might also question the omission of some important landmarks (for example, Kölliker) from the time chart. Note to the publisher: might one ask why it is possible nowadays to print a well-designed, comfortably-reading book—all that is desirable, in fact, complete with Library of Congress catalog card number—without anywhere visibly recording the date of its publication?

Investigations into Generation is highly recommended as a pleasantly composed, selective but well-balanced account of its subject, based on patently sympathetic understanding of the original and secondary literature. Particularly for students of developmental biology immersed in laboratory investigations, many of whom are perforce very deficient in historical comprehension and insight, it should make excellent supplementary reading, not at all hard to take.

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Biochemistry Meeting

Peptides. Proceedings of the 8th European Peptide Symposium, Noordwijk, the Netherlands, Sept. 1966. H. C. BEYERMAN, A. VAN DE LINDE, and W. MAASSEN VAN DEN BRINK, Eds. North-Holland, Amsterdam; Interscience (Wiley), New York, 1967. xii + 292 pp., illus. $14.50.

The European Peptide Symposia have become established as a fine example of international cooperation in promoting research in a specialized but important field. Since attendance at the symposia is limited, the published proceedings are particularly important to other workers in the field. The report of the 1966 symposium is especially well done and should be worth the cost to peptide chemists. The scope of the papers is indicated by the section headings: Coupling Methods, Protecting Groups, Racemization, Synthesis of Peptides with the Aid of a Polymeric