The third volume, which deals with the reproduction of DNA animal viruses, is opened by a description by J. A. Rose of parvovirus reproduction, a straightforward account of the smallest known DNA-containing vertebrate viruses by a leader in a recently developed field.

The next two chapters, on papovaviruses by N. P. Salzman and G. Khoury and on adenoviruses by L. Philipson and U. Lindberg, are well written and well illustrated. The authors cover most of the latest information and provide their own speculations and interpretations.

The following chapter on the herpesviruses by B. Roizman and D. Furlong is more than twice as long as any other chapter in the volume. It is primarily a detailed review (with 47 figures and 11 tables) of the work performed in the authors' laboratory. Other, equally interesting aspects of the replication of the herpesviruses are either completely neglected or treated in a cursory manner, with a number of errors. The last chapter in volume 3 is an interesting account by B. Moss of recent work on the poxviruses. The author presents a nicely illustrated summary of most aspects of the interaction of the poxviruses with their host cells.

The fourth volume considers the reproduction of large RNA viruses. The first chapter, by R. R. Wagner on the rhabdoviruses, is a lucid and comprehensive account of this important group. The chapters on the myxoviruses by P. W. Choppin and R. W. Compans are also well written and informative. They contain an excellent account of the physical-chemical properties of these viruses and cover many of the biological and biochemical properties quite well. J. Bader's chapter on the RNA tumor viruses puts in perspective the information available up to 1973. Though already out of date, it is worth reading if only for the number of controversial issues discussed and hypotheses proposed to explain the replication of these viruses.

In general, this series suffers from unevenness in quality and might have been edited more carefully. (There is an unusual number of typographical errors.) The coverage is certainly not "comprehensive"pathological and immunological aspects of virology are omitted, and many of the authors refer the reader to reviews in areas of virology not covered in these volumes. Some of the chapters are rather complete, whereas others are already out of date. For example, intensive research on the picornaviruses occurred during the '60's and consequently most of the important information about these viruses could be included in the book. By contrast, the chapter on the replication of RNA tumor viruses is dated because research on the subject is currently progressing rapidly. Despite its shortcomings, however, this series will be useful to those interested in becoming acquainted with the field of virology, as well as to virus research workers and teachers. Students will probably gain the most from the series. It is a pity, therefore, that the price of the volumes is so high.

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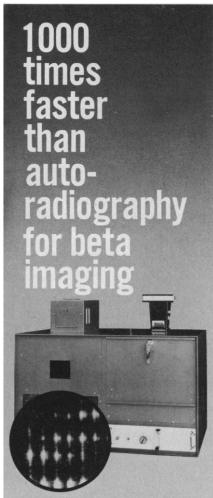
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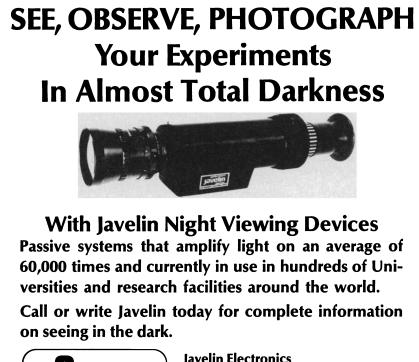
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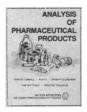
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