C. T. Ingold in the book more acceptable in including all fungi "normally submerged in large volumes of free water such as streams and rivers, ponds and lakes"? Another type of definitional problem relates to the large part *Thraustochytrium* plays in the literature on aquatic fungi (in this book it has more entries in the index than any other organism except *Saprolegnia*) despite the considerable evidence that it is not a fungus at all (see F. O. Perkins's chapter, "Fine structure of lower marine and estuarine fungi").

Among the interesting subjects dealt with in the book are distribution patterns (in "Lignicolous and algicolous fungi" by E. B. Gareth Jones, "Yeasts in oceanic regions" by J. W. Fell, "The ecology of marine lower fungi" by G. B. Bremer, "Fungi in sewage" by W. B. Cooke, and "The ecology of aquatic phycomycetes" by M. W. Dick), succession (especially in Newell's paper), and models to explain the distribution of aquatic fungi (see the paper by Dick). An especially interesting but preliminary report on Hyphomycetes as a source of food-and energy-in streams is presented by F. Bärlocher and B. Kendrick. The systematics and evolution of certain groups of aquatic fungi are reviewed authoritatively, but briefly, by F. K. Sparrow, T. W. Johnson, Jr., and R. W. Lichtwardt. Except for F. Gleason's paper on lower freshwater fungi, physiology is covered superficially and without the drawing together of concepts from which future work will evolve. In addition, there are papers on the degradation of oil and effects of DDT in aquatic systems, cytochemistry, morphology, diseases and immune responses to them, and freshwater Actinomyces. There is even a list of films on aquatic fungi.

While the broad and often critical coverage of the field makes perusal of it worthwhile, the book is marred by redundancies, for example, in the discussions of fungal parasites of algae, the nutrition of lower fungi, and ultrastructure. Moreover, the reproduction of illustrations in the chapters on ultrastructure, and elsewhere, is substandard. The cost of the book is increased by the inclusion in several chapters of space-consuming lists of fungi, much of the information in which could have been presented in the text, and it is not clear to me why a few of the chapters, such as that on Actinomyces, belong in the book at all.

Some of the difficulties with the book are attributable to the lack of circumscription of disciplines that characterizes developing fields. Another difficulty is the lack of reliable quantitative and analytical techniques in the field. Nevertheless, the excitement and potential of research on aquatic fungi are communicated in this book, along with much information.

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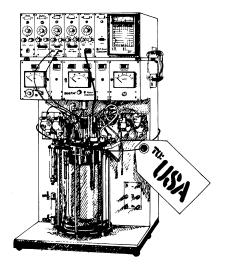
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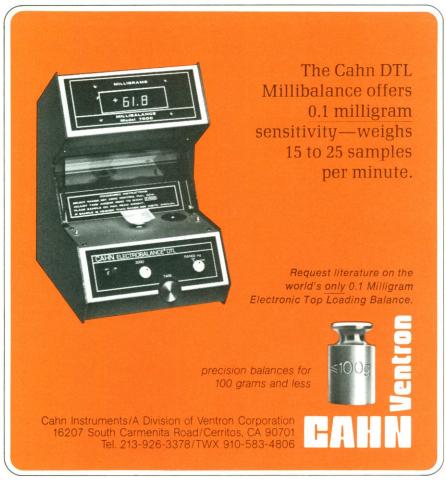
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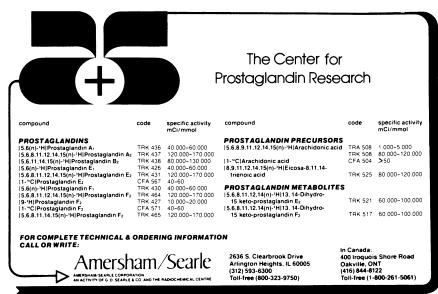
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