

gests that our knowledge of marine forms is heavily biased in the direction of what individual investigators find personally interesting and that, as the book implies, we need a new paradigm for marine studies that incorporates all kinds of studies on all kinds of eukaryotic microorganisms.

Another topic of general interest is the role of marine fungi (*sensu lato*) in pathogenicity and in nonpathogenic interactions. Porter notes that even though parasitic marine fungi have been found in various associations with many animals, it is likely that we know today only a fraction of the interactions that actually exist. As economically important food organisms come under intensive monoculture, fungal epidemics surely follow. Polglase, Alderman, and Richards continue on this theme, including in their discussion organisms of little-known taxonomic affinity that cause ravaging diseases of fish. Fungal interactions with plants are discussed by Molina and by Kingman and Evans. The former is concerned with an invasive fungal (oomycete) pathogen of the red alga *Chondrus crispus*. Even though the alga has been studied and utilized commercially for many years, this is the first report of that particular interaction; one wonders how many others are out there waiting for their first report. Likewise, virtually nothing had been known about the true nature of the *Pelvetia-Mycosphaerella* interaction described by Kingham and Evans. We still know little, but their chapter clearly defines the problem and the possible solutions.

Commercial interests are well served in the chapters by Miller on secondary metabolites and their potential importance, by Hyde, Jones, and Moss on mycelial adhesion, a topic of major value in light of the concept that microbial interactions must start with adhesion, by Mouzouras on timber decay, one of the time-honored and well-recognized roles of marine fungi, and by Eaton on wood preservation.

The more traditional areas of morphology and taxonomy are well represented by seven chapters on Ascomycotina. This fungal group is not only the dominant one in marine habitats (by current estimate), it lends itself more readily to taxonomic treatment than do many of the more loosely associated organisms discussed in this book. The extensive summary by G. Hughes on biogeography and marine fungi effectively demonstrates the immense amount of work that must be put into studies of the marine fungi. Overall, this volume, though unevenly written, contains chapters of interest to many different kinds of mycologists and should be read by other biologists as well. For too long now have marine fungi been studied *in vacuo* and virtually ignored by

nonmycological marine biologists. These organisms need to be incorporated as equal members in marine microbiological investigations.

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Sensory Physiology

Visual Neuroscience. J. D. PETTIGREW, K. J. SANDERSON, and W. R. LEVICK, Eds. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1986. x, 448 pp., illus. \$125. From a celebration, Lord Howe Island, Australia, 1983.

The papers in this volume were written by colleagues, students, and scientific friends of Peter Bishop, formerly professor of physiology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University in Canberra. The papers are renditions in print of presentations at a meeting in honor of Bishop held on Lord Howe Island, a few hundred miles off the coast of Australia, in 1983. From all accounts this was an exceptional event, and the present book is an exceptionally fine tribute to a well-known visual neurophysiologist.

Bishop's approach to science has been to emphasize precision of measurement and painstaking experimentation. His strategy for building the Department of Physiology was to assemble the best electronic and mechanical instrumentation and give younger researchers autonomy to pursue their own questions about visual neurophysiology. The camaraderie of his group was maintained by daily meetings and injections of enthusiasm and support by Bishop. This strategy resulted in significant progress on two major subjects of present concern in visual neuroscience, the neural basis of binocular depth perception and the multiple, parallel representations of the visual world in the brain.

That single visual cortical neurons can signal the distance of an object in depth, on the basis of horizontal disparity of their receptive fields in the eyes, was a major discovery by John Pettigrew in Bishop's laboratory. The evolutionary, clinical, and theoretical significance of this discovery is the subject of some of the more lively papers in the book, those by Pettigrew, D. P. Crewther and S. G. Crewther, and J. I. Nelson. Pettigrew's paper is distinguished by its enthusiasm and pugnacity toward theoreticians although his facts are not always straight.

The exploration of the multiple represen-

tations of the visual world in the arrays of X, Y, and many other types of retinal ganglion cells, and their targets in the visual cortex, constitutes a major fraction of the book. This emphasis is appropriate, because the group working under Bishop provided some of the best early evidence of the importance of parallel processing in the retina and central visual pathway. Papers on this subject by W. R. Levick, B. G. Cleland, H. Wässle, J. Bullier, G. Henry, B. Dreher, and J. Kaas are all interesting and offer new ideas as well as useful reviews of past accomplishments. An intriguing new investigation by J. Stone and D. H. Rapaport of the development of the retina, using knowledge about the multiplicity of ganglion cell types, provides a fresh perspective on an old and interesting unsolved problem. The book's most interesting paper on parallel visual pathways, in my opinion, is that by W. Burke on pressure block of Y cells in the cat optic nerve. There is some hope that Burke may finally have found a way to knock out the Y cells selectively and thereby define their role in visual behavior by measuring visual perceptual losses.

The book ends with a section on integrative aspects, an area that Bishop personally avoided but encouraged others to explore. This section includes two papers on illusory contours: a psychologist's analysis of the perceptual phenomenon of seeing a border that has no physical reality outside one's head, by R. H. Day; and an account by E. Peterhans and colleagues of recent neurophysiological experiments on single neurons in the monkey visual cortex that can "see" illusory contours like those perceived by humans. This subject is being intensely studied now in many laboratories because it seems directly related to fundamental mechanisms of the perception of form. The two papers in this book are excellent starting points for learning about the mysteries of, as well as some of the explanations for, subjective contours.

One of the special features of this book is the inclusion of the human side of science. In addition to the summaries of Bishop's career, there are brief reminiscences by many of the authors about the time they spent in his laboratories, either in Canberra or earlier in Sydney. There is also a strong implicit pride among the Australian contributors in the growth of Australian science, as exemplified by the successes of Bishop and his group. Alongside of the group's scientific accomplishments, the book gives ample evidence of Bishop's role in training a generation of Australian scientists and in building a department that attracted to Australia scientists from the United States, Britain, Japan, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, and

Germany. The editors have succeeded in presenting a volume to Peter Bishop that does him justice and in giving neuroscientists and psychologists a book worth studying.

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