

In closing, however, I would like to discuss one point that relates not to the basic merit of the book but to its pedagogical outlook. The book is heavily slanted toward pathology and contains frequent excursions into the problems of cancer and other diseases. This is in line with the author's statement in the opening chapter that "in this book no pains will be taken to exclude any reference to the abnormal; indeed, every effort will be made to introduce enough histopathology to help the student to associate and correlate these two subjects [histology and pathology] as much as possible" (p. 7). I recognize that there are different views about the teaching of the human anatomical sciences. But I happen to be one of those who believe that histology is not the handmaiden of pathology; no more, indeed, than gross anatomy is the lackey of surgery or embryology the midwife of obstetrics. There are such things as first things; although, in the mad pedagogical whirl of today, this simple fact is too often lost sight of. I realize, for example, that one cannot properly teach the histology and cytology of the pancreas without reference to diabetes mellitus, but such reference is properly dictated and modified by the aim toward understanding *normal* pancreatic structure and function. The wisdom of distracting the attention of the beginning student with the problems of disease, however, is seriously to be questioned. One would be equally justified in attempting to teach surgical procedures in the first-year dissecting room; indeed, such attempts, unfortunately, are not unknown. Such digressions may serve temporarily to inflate the ego of the poorer medical student, but they do not fool the really good one. In addition, they cause the teacher deliberately to forfeit the last opportunity to give the student an understanding of the normal human body by focusing his attention elsewhere. The normal must be studied and appreciated before the abnormal; hence, at the beginning the latter had best be deliberately put aside wherever possible.

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**A List of the Names Proposed for Genera and Subgenera of Recent Mammals.** From the publication of T. S. Palmer's *Index Genera Mammalium* 1904 to the end of 1951. L. R. Conisbee. London: British Museum (Natural History), 1953. 109 pp. 1£.

Palmer's *Index Genera Mammalium* (1904) has long been out of print. It is still so useful to the mammalian systematist that the very few copies appearing in the market command a large premium, but it is obviously now long out of date and therefore very incomplete. Mr. Conisbee has painstakingly completed it through 1951 by this excellent supplement. As in Palmer, the supplement gives at least the following essential data for each generic or subgeneric name: author, year, classification (order and family), original reference, type species, type locality, and derivation of the name (when ascertainable). There is also a

systematic list of names following the main, alphabetical listing. The work is accurate and nearly exhaustive. It is indispensable for those fortunate enough to have a copy of Palmer and helpful to anyone interested in zoological nomenclature. Its usefulness is, nevertheless, limited by the fact that it omits names of extinct genera and subgenera and that it is a supplement to a practically unobtainable work. What we still need is a complete new edition of Palmer.

Such a list arouses some thoughts on the progress and status of systematic mammalogy. A large sampling of its 611 generic and subgeneric names indicates that only about 25 percent of them were applied to newly discovered species, and even in those instances there is usually reason to challenge the author's opinion that generic or subgeneric distinction of the then new species was warranted. Some 60 percent of the names were applied to groups already well known but not earlier given subgeneric or generic rank. Nomenclatural inflation may be inevitable and may even be occasionally useful, but it does little or nothing to increase zoological knowledge. About 10 percent of the names from the start were invalid on purely nomenclatural grounds. So large a proportion of debris suggests an actual decline in knowledge or, at least wisdom. A final five percent, more or less, of the listed names were substitutes for previous names found invalid on nomenclatural grounds—attempts to clear up still older debris.

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## New Books

**Adaptation in Micro-Organisms.** Third Symposium of the Society for General Microbiology, London, April, 1953. R. Davies and E. F. Gale, Eds. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1953. 339 pp. Illus. + plates. \$6.00.

**Cultural Patterns and Technical Change.** Manual prepared by World Federation for Mental Health; Margaret Mead, Ed. Paris: Unesco, 1953. U.S. distr.: Columbia Univ. Press, New York. 348 pp. \$1.75.

**International Review of Cytology**, Vol. II. G. H. Bourne and J. F. Danielli, Eds. New York: Academic Press, 1953. 545 pp. Illus. \$11.00.

**Chemical Methods in Industrial Hygiene.** Frederick H. Goldman and Morris B. Jacobs. New York: Interscience, 1953. 274 pp. Illus. \$3.75.

**Procedures in Experimental Metallurgy.** A. U. Seybolt and J. E. Burke. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1953. 340 pp. Illus. \$7.00.

**Augustine to Galileo.** The History of Science A.D. 400–1650. 1st American ed. A. C. Crombie. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1953. 436 pp. Illus. + plates. \$8.00.

**Frontal Lobes and Schizophrenia.** Second lobotomy Project of Boston Psychopathic Hospital. Milton Greenblatt and Harry C. Solomon, Eds. New York: Springer, 1953. 425 pp. Illus. \$12.50.

**Surgery of the Biliary Tract, Pancreas, and Spleen.** A handbook of operative surgery. Charles B. Puestow; illus. by Jessie W. Phillips. Chicago: Year Book Publ., 1953. 370 pp. Illus. \$9.00.