

cated also for species of *Primula* studied by D. H. Valentine. Another interesting contribution is the study of a blind cave fish from the Congo by M. J. Heuts. According to Heuts, the blindness is not a result of mutation pressure with relaxed selection, but rather of a heterogonic growth connected with low basal metabolism and slow development. Low metabolism is supposed to be favorable in cave environments because of food scarcity. The validity of this interpretation hinges on ecological data omitted from the paper. The complexity of adaptive consequences of some gene changes is emphasized also by P. M. Shepard, whose study of genetic alterations taking place in a certain natural population of the moth *Panaxia* is the most thorough of its kind. Quite interesting and original are also P. B. Medawar's discussion of evolutionary problems raised by the viviparity in vertebrates, S. M. Manton's treatment of the locomotion in arthropods, and M. R. A. Chance and A. P. Mead's of social behavior as a factor in the evolution of primates.

The article of C. N. Hinshelwood on adaptation in microorganisms is in a class by itself, aiming as it does to circumvent the evidence that such adaptations occur in many instances through selection of pre-existing mutants. In his foreward to the symposium, J. B. S. Haldane regards Hinshelwood's contribution as "useful in presenting results comparable with those on which Lysenko's criticism of Mendelism is based." The matter is, however, adequately taken care of by M. Demerec and by D. G. Kendall; the occurrence of mutation in microorganisms is no longer in doubt.

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Contact Dermatitis. George L. Waldbott. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1953. 218 pp. Illus. \$8.75.

This is an excellent book in a specialized field, written and illustrated in such a manner that it is not only of value to the dermatologist and the allergist but also very readable for the general physician or others interested in this field. It has the unusual distinction of being written by an allergist and edited by a dermatologist.

Although the basic phenomena of contact dermatitis are discussed as to incidence, mechanism, pathology, and diagnosis, with adequate consideration of the determination of the causes by history and patch test, the uncommon feature of the work is the stress laid on the various patterns of contact dermatitis. Various tables and illustrations are helpful to the practicing physician or researcher.

Special situations are considered in separate chapters such as poison ivy, pollen dermatitis, cosmetics, soaps, wearing apparel, drugs, footwear, and occupation. Treatment with special emphasis on the care of poison ivy dermatitis is considered in a separate chapter. The principal contact agents and other contribut-

ing irritants are listed and discussed. A glossary together with a very complete bibliography complete the work.

The typography, illustrations, format, and paper are of superior quality.

Although the book does briefly mention the psychosomatic angles of contact dermatitis and emphasizes the misuse of the psychoanalytic approach, the opposite is more likely in the reviewer's opinion, i.e., the contact dermatitis angle of a specific case is much more often overdone by the average physician while losing sight of the nervous factors.

The author has wisely eliminated the chemical analysis of the various contactants leaving this problem more specifically for texts on occupational dermatitis.

This is an excellent book and is highly recommended for those interested in this problem.

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Books Reviewed in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

December

Eugenics: Galton and After. C. P. Blacker. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1952. 349 pp. \$5.00.

Reviewed by C. Nash Herndon.

Introduction to Logical Theory. P. F. Strawson. New York: Wiley; London: Methuen, 1952. 266 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Paul C. Rosenbloom.

Along the Great Rivers. Gordon Cooper. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 159 pp. + plates. \$4.75.

Reviewed by Herbert B. Nichols.

Atoms, Men and God. Paul E. Sabine. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 226 pp. \$3.75.

Reviewed by A. Cornelius Benjamin.

The Itinerant Ivory Tower. G. E. Hutchison. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press; London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1953. 261 pp. \$4.00.

Reviewed by Marston Bates.

Succulent Plants: Other Than Cacti. A. Bertrand. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 112 pp. Illus. + plates. \$4.75.

Reviewed by Edward J. Alexander.

Our Neighbour Worlds. V. A. Firsoff. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 336 pp. Illus. + plate. \$6.00.

Reviewed by Frank K. Edmondson.

A Free Society. Mark M. Heald. New York: Philosophical Library, 1953. 546 pp. \$4.75.

Reviewed by William E. Diez.

Heredity in Health and Mental Disorder. Franz J. Kallmann. New York: Norton, 1953. 315 pp. Illus. \$6.00.

Reviewed by Laurence H. Snyder.

The End of the World: A Scientific Inquiry. Kenneth Heuer. New York: Rinehart, 1953. 220 pp. + plates. \$3.00.

Reviewed by G. Gamow.

