biological examples, often chosen from her own discipline. She quotes frequently from the literature of philosophy. The style is clear and precise, giving a sense of deep sincerity in a search for an understanding that will transcend appearances and find unity in the midst of diversity.

The concluding chapter, setting the theme for the whole book deals with the relationships between sensory impressions and the higher mental life. The author writes:

> Kant . . . wrote that it is essential for the achievement of abstract thought "to emancipate the mind from the despotism of the eye." To speak of "despotism" in this connection, prejudices the case from the outset; it is an unfair word, since the eye is, rather, the servant of the mind, to which it offers all its data for interpretation. . . . The activities of the sense organs, and the thinking of the brain, are all parts of an indivisible whole. . . . Whereas *Metaphysics* studies "being" as such, and *Natural Science* (of the physico-chemical type) treats of the corporeal world, *Natural Philosophy* may be so defined as to link the two; it would connote that mental activity which ceaselessly weaves connexions between the planes of intangible "essence" and tangible "existence."

The professional philosopher may find little novelty in the development of such ideas, but the biologist, usually immersed in the minutiae of observation or experiment, will do well to read this modest volume. Provisional and imperfect it surely is, as the author well knows, but it points a way toward deeper thinking about basic causes and meanings which most biologists have lost. She hopes that

> . . . its very inadequacies may stimulate others to cast an illumination, more powerful than my rushlight, upon the biologist's road to reality.

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Relative Chronologies in Old World Archaeology. Robert W. Ehrich, Ed. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1954. xii + 154 pp. Illus. Paper, $2.50.

These papers were originally presented at a joint symposium of the American Anthropological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America. Nine specialists from different regions attempted to build up a chain of chronological equations that would enable the student of comparative archeology to estimate the relative age of various cultures and to observe the contacts between them.

The assignment was an ambitious one and difficult to follow in the original, oral presentation. The carefully edited book that has resulted is an invaluable tool for the professional archeologist and an interesting demonstration of method for outsiders. Highly recommendable is Helene J. Kantor's opening paper on the situation in Egypt, cornerstone of any chronological construction, whether relative or absolute, in the ancient world. From here we wander through Palestine along a system of safe throughways to Northern Syria and Anatolia (where R. J. Braidwood and Hetty Goldman unveil new and precious footholds). We begin to feel somewhat uncertain as we turn west into the Aegean and become lost in Europe, only to be rescued by the vigorous editor.

The other road leads east, into safe and relatively well explored Mesopotamia, on via Iran into the depths of China. Here a remarkable contrast occurs. Where contacts are rather unknown, the layman will have little trouble in following the story (China). Where precise knowledge is beginning to accumulate (Iran), the account becomes highly technical and appetizing for experts only.

Attention is focused on *relative* chronology, a wise procedure. The material used is the everyday equipment of ancient man; witness the pots all over the text and cover of the book. There are moments when one would like to see *art* introduced into the story; after all we do have sculpture to tell us about Mesopotamia and North Syria. But the everyday criterions, when handled with circumspection as they are in the best of these papers, have allowed old world archeologists to resuscitate and articulate the world of early human progress.

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Biochemistry and Human Metabolism. Burnham S. Walker, William C. Boyd, and Isaac Asimov. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, ed. 2, 1954. xii + 904 pp. Illus. $10.

By changing the classical order of the topics of study, placing greater emphasis on proteins and amino acids, and by accenting human biochemistry rather than organic chemistry, the authors of *Biochemistry and Human Metabolism* have successfully combined the fundamentals of biochemistry with its clinical applications. The general plan of the first edition was not altered except for some minor changes, such as the inclusion of the section on acids and bases in the first chapter rather than in the appendix. The Brønsted-Lowry concept of acids and bases is concisely explained and utilized to correct the prevalent though erroneous view among some clinicians that sodium or potassium ions are bases. Chapter 14 on "Proteins and starvation" has been completely rewritten and considerably enlarged.

Although protein and enzyme chemists may be enthusiastic about the prominent place given to these subjects, the need for a 40-page chapter on "Reproduction and heredity" and a 22-page chapter on "Cancer" in a biochemistry textbook may be questioned, especially when lipids and lipid metabolism are discussed in only 16 and 20 pages, respectively.

Typographical errors are, in general, rare. It is anomalous that *amid* is used for *amide* (p. 91), while the now outdated *tryptophane* for *tryptophan* is still