

The author, who is not a taxonomist, has had to rely on the literature for criteria distinguishing genera. This is no mean task, what with the continuing activities of the "splitters" and the "lumpers" in our midst. But the decisions reached appear generally satisfactory. The black bear (*Euarctos*) is segregated from the grizzly and brown bears (*Ursus*); four genera of marmosets (*Callithrix*, *Cebuella*, *Leontideus*, and *Saguinus*) are recognized; the American pocket gophers fall into eight genera.

In a work of such magnitude some errors are unavoidable. Thus, we read that rabbits and sheep prey on marsupials in Australia (p. 10), and that the blue whale can swim at "15 knots an hour or more" (p. 1139). *Citellus columbianus* is misspelled as *C. colombianus* (p. 709), *Myrmecobiidae* as *Myrmecodiidae* (p. 511), and *Babirussa* as *Babyrousa* (p. 1364). The bibliographic slips are equally annoying. More discerning proofreading would have corrected much of this. But, on the whole, these three volumes comprise an essential general reference book for all professional mammalogists. Packed with intriguing details and profusely illustrated, they are also a fine example of the bookmaker's art. Certainly they will be much used by all those with an interest in any aspect of the mammals of the world.

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## Need for Research Reviews

**Advances in Drug Research.** vol. 1.  
N. J. Harper and Alma B. Simmonds, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1964. x + 209 pp. Illus. \$6.25.

Until a few years ago, the conscientious pharmacologist could keep up with the review articles in his field by reading the quarterly *Pharmacological Reviews*, plus perhaps the less frequently published *Recent Advances in Pharmacology*. In the last few years, with the advent of *Annual Review of Pharmacology*, *Advances in Pharmacology*, and now *Advances in Drug Research*, the brimming cup has begun to spill over.

It is not that the extraordinary activity of the pharmaceutical industry and of nonindustrial scientists inter-

ested in drugs does not justify the publication of authoritative reviews on topics of importance. It is rather that one may ask whether we need quite so much as is now available in the way of publication along these lines.

For example, in the first volume of *Advances in Drug Research* there is an interesting and useful article on penicillins and related structures. This field is expanding so rapidly that an up-to-date review, especially with a chemical orientation, will be of interest to many. The material presented indicates rather clearly how far the chemists are ahead of the clinicians; new penicillins are being produced and introduced at a rate that exceeds the ability of physicians to appraise them satisfactorily.

A good review on antitussives is badly needed, but the presentation given in this volume leaves something to be desired. There are abundant references that will guide the reader to the world literature, but the discussion of the application of antitussives to clinical practice suffers from the non-clinical orientation of the authors. Physicians might suspect, for example, that many of the alleged therapeutic effects of inhalants, expectorants, mucolytic agents, proteolytic enzymes, and the like should be attributed to the placebo phenomenon. The article's strength lies in its chemistry, not in its biology, but the two are inextricably related.

With respect to the other two papers in this first volume of *Advances in Drug Research*, one can be even more ambivalent. The treatment of physiological transport of drugs is satisfactory per se, but merely adds another to a series that has appeared within the last few years. Information in this field is hardly accumulating at a rate that justifies such frequent summaries. The article on adrenergic neurone blocking agents is, again, not objectionable per se, but in view of recent reviews of this topic, including one on antihypertensive drugs (by Green) in a book put out by the same publisher in 1962, one can seriously question the advisability of soliciting the present article.

If volumes of this kind are to have a broad appeal and to merit purchase by individuals or libraries, more attention must be paid to the selection of topics. Obviously it will be difficult to avoid overlapping, with different publishers being involved and long de-

lays between the commissioning of articles and their publication. At the very least, however, scientists who are approached might more often sacrifice a modicum of ego satisfaction and turn down invitations to write reviews when they know that a review of the topic is already "in the mill" or that one has been published a year or two earlier. Neither the authors nor the reading public are likely to benefit from a continuation of the present trend.

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## Physical Anthropology

**Physical Anthropology 1953-1961.**

Gabriel W. Lasker, Ed. (vol. 9, 230 pp. Illus. Paper, \$4.50); **Yearbook of Physical Anthropology, 1962.** Jack Kelso and Gabriel W. Lasker, Eds. (vol. 10, 383 pp. Illus. Paper, \$4.50). Published for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists by Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma and Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, México, D.F. (order from Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Córdoba 45, México 7, D.F.).

From 1945 through 1952 the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, known through part of this period as the Viking Fund, published volumes 1 through 8 of the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*; the series was then discontinued in favor of a more ambitious *Yearbook of Anthropology*, designed to cover the broader field. Only one issue (1955) of the latter publication appeared. Now the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, thanks to two diligent editors from its membership (Lasker currently is also President of the Association), has reestablished the series as of the year 1962, and has filled in the 9-year gap. This explains the slightly different title of volume 9, the interim volume. Welcome financial assistance has come, not only from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, but, perhaps more significantly, from two institutions in Mexico: the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e