Basic Neuroendocrine Studies

Major Problems in Neuroendocrinology. An international symposium. E. Bajusz and G. Jasmin, Eds. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Md., 1964. viii + 471 pp. Illus. $18.

Since the publication of *Traité de Neuroendocrinologie* (Masson, Paris, 1946), by G. Roussy and M. Mosinger, no book-length appraisal of the field appeared until recently when three followed each other in short succession. The last of them, *Major Problems in Neuroendocrinology*, which will be reviewed here, is one of a series of written symposia in the periodical *Revue Canadienne de Biologie*, published in book form. As the editors state in their foreword: "Mere perusal of the Index reveals that this symposium volume deals with various aspects of basic neuroendocrine studies, presents timely information on a number of highly controversial subjects of neuroendocrine correlations, and shows some major lines along which invesitgations are at the moment being conducted."

Four sections of the book are devoted to the regulation of the release of adrenocorticotropin, aldosterone, thyroid stimulating hormone, and gonadotropin. Each of the 13 articles includes a bibliography; collectively they represent a valuable source of up-to-date information.

Two other sections, one under the heading "Neural, neuroendocrine and hormonal interactions," the other entitled "Some miscellaneous problems in neuroendocrinology," together consisting of another 13 papers, address themselves to an equal number of topics—for example, "The chromaffine granules of the adrenal medulla," "The neuroendocrine relations of cardiology," and "Adrenal ascorbic acid depletion produced by polypeptides obtained from the blood serum."

In the last entry, "Recent progress in neuroendocrine research," one of the editors (E. Bajusz) reports on the present status of information concerning the hypothalamic-hypophyseal system and neurosecretion, vasopressin and oxytocin, regulation of synthesis and secretion of ACTH, TSH, STH, and GTH, neuroendocrine aspects of stress research, regulation of aldosterone secretion, cellular activities, and enzymatic adaptation. Without this summarizing review, the symposium, like so many enterprises of this kind, would not be very different from a bound volume of a journal, for the individual articles, although contributed by outstanding authorities in their fields, lack a common denominator. It is the excellent summary at the end of the book that binds them together and places them in perspective.

This volume will be a useful, if expensive, addition to the library of the neuroendocrinologist, which, for the time being, includes more than adequate sources of information on the current status of the field. A temporary moratorium on symposiums in the field of neuroendocrinology will not retard its progress.

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Insect Portraits

The Amazing World of Insects. A photographic introduction. Arend T. Bandsma and Robin T. Brandt. Macmillan, New York, 1963. xii + 186 pp. Plates. $9.95.

The authors, two New Zealand school teachers, intend this book to be "an introduction to the fascinating world of insects." It is not the way I would choose to introduce anyone to insects; I would prefer direct observation and collection of insects in the field, study in the laboratory with the help of a systematic, well-illustrated textbook, and an instructor for guidance in both field and laboratory. It seems to me that the present unsystematic book, featuring photographs of living insects in their natural environments, is not a primary source of information about insects, but rather a secondary source, of interest to all who are already familiar with insects, and of particular interest to those who have tried to photograph living, unchilled, and unanesthetized insects—that is, insects ready to jump, run, or fly.

Although examples are pictured in the principal orders of insects, many families are not represented. The authors have obviously selected their most spectacular pictures for publication. Plates 39 and 41 of a leaf insect *Extatosoma tiaratum* are the most fantastic I have ever seen, and I marvel at the success of the authors in taking a frontal close-up of the face of a dragon fly (plate 11). The statistics of the pictures follow: 134 illustrations on 125 pages; 17 in color, 117 black and white; 96 of whole insects, 34 of parts of insects (enlarged), 4 of other arthropods; of the insects there are shown 106 adults, 21 immature forms, and 3 eggs. The place where each photograph was taken is not given, but it appears that most of the insects were natives of New Zealand, Australia, and Spain. Therefore the book will not help those who want to identify American insects; nor would it be of much value in economic entomology anywhere.

Although they are not professional entomologists, the authors attempt in 46 pages of text to characterize the orders and some of the families of insects represented in the photographs. I do not recommend study of the text; it is too brief to be meaningful. It would have been better, I think, if the authors had referred serious students to standard textbooks and had used the available text space to describe their adventures in finding and photographing their insect game. One can imagine that, in addition to their interesting description of their acquisition of bedbugs in Spain (page 24), they have a store of fascinating untold stories.

If this book is not all that the authors wanted it to be, it is still a great collection of insect portraits and should be commended as such.

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Solid State Physics

Dislocations. Jacques Friedel. Based on a translation from the French edition (Paris, 1956) by L. F. Vassamillet. Pergamon, London; Addison-Wesley, Reading, Mass., 1964. xxii + 491 pp. Illus. $17.

This translation by L. F. Vassamillet, of Friedel's book, *Les Dislocations* (Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1956), is a very welcome addition to the English language texts on dislocations. W. T. Read's text, *Dislocations in Crystals* (McGraw-Hill, 1953) treated the subject from the viewpoint of an applied mathematician. Friedel's approach, which is more that of the physicist, complements the mathematics with clear discussions and an adequate series of diagrams. This book is not just a translation of the French edition but has been revised and expanded. It