buctoo of 1965 from the city described by Miner in 1940. In this new paperback edition of a book originally published in 1953, Miner has attempted to cope with the new data and with the many changes by the addition of a sentence or a paragraph or by the use of footnotes. The bulk of the text remains as he originally wrote it; it has a curiously archaic character as a result.

His book will always have its value because it is one of the few existing studies of African cities, or of Islamic cities, or of nonindustrial cities based on trade. Unfortunately it fails to give any idea of the political organization of the city. Its focus is on custom rather than on the structure of social life.

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Organic Chemistry

Dictionary of Organic Compounds. vols. 1–5 and First Supplement. J. R. A. Pollock, R. Stevens, and G. Harris, Eds. Oxford University Press, New York (vols. 1–5, ed. 4, 1965; 3346 pp.; First Supplement, 1965, 213 pp.). Illus. $280.

The new *Dictionary of Organic Compounds* is the fourth edition of a dictionary designed to present in brief the "constitution and physical, chemical and other properties of the principal carbon compounds and their derivatives, together with relevant literature references." Although some may think that preparing a new edition of a dictionary involves only minor additions and corrections, this new edition is about 40 percent larger than its predecessor; redrawing the structural formulas and adoption of the internationally accepted rules of nomenclature that were recently developed have required almost a complete recasting of the text. With one exception (that of inserting the year of publication in front of the volume or page number in references), there is a reasonable acceptance of the citation system used by *Chemical Abstracts*. This work should prove to be most useful in the establishment and proper description of the more important organic compounds.

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History of Genetics

Genetik: Grundlagen Ergebnisse und Probleme in Einzeldarstellungen. vol. 1, *Kurze Geschichte der Genetik bis zur Wiederentdeckung der Vererbungsregeln Gregor Mendels.* Hans Stubbe. Fischer, Jena, Germany, ed. 2, 1965. xvi + 272 pp. Illus. MDN 21.

It is a sign of the widening interest in the origins of genetics that the first brief comprehensive account of its history before 1900 has already reached a second edition. The monograph was first published in 1963 as volume 1 of the series "Genetik: Grundlagen, Ergebnisse and Probleme in Einzeldarstellungen." The policy of publishing separate monographic treatments of different aspects of genetics, because smaller restricted publications can be more readily kept up to date by revision, is thus justified by the first volume of the series.

The first edition was an excellent and succinct account of the work of Mendel and of his predecessors beginning with the first domesticators of plants and animals. The first chapters were devoted to ideas about reproduction and heredity as found in the works of the Greek and Roman writers of antiquity and of scientists and observers of the Middle Ages. The beginning of a new era in the 18th century was noted in the controversy concerning preformation and epigenesis and especially in the botanical discoveries of the late 17th and in the 18th century (by Camerarius, Linnaeus, and Kölreuter). Some 40 pages (now expanded to 60) were devoted to the plant breeders and theorists of evolution in the 19th century, including Mendel, and were followed by an excellent chapter on the origin of variations and the mutation theory. The latter well-documented account served to replace the earlier book by Stubbe which, because many of the printed copies were lost during World War II, has not been generally available. The last chapters, about a fifth of the text, were devoted to the great cytological discoveries of the 19th century, to Weismann and the germ plasm theory, to the rediscoveries of Mendel's laws, and to the first conceptions of a chromosome theory of heredity.

The second edition is an improvement and expansion of the first. Forty pages have been added to the text, including a 12-page facsimile of Mendel's letter of 3 July 1870 to Carl von Naegeli (the holograph has not been published previously), and 115 titles added to the already extensive bibliography. Proper attention has now been paid to Karl Pearson's contributions (1900 to 1909) to the theory of Mendelian equilibrium and to Fisher's critique of Mendel's theory. Among the other new names is that of Count Giorgio Gallesio (1772 to 1839) whose works on plant breeding, especially of citrus, were well known to Darwin. As pointed out by Martini (1961), Gallesio used the expression "dominating" in his "Teoria della riproduzione vegetale" in 1816, some 10 years before the earliest use of the concept of dominance ascribed by Roberts to Sageret (1826).

A valuable feature of the book is the brief biographical notices of most of the chief actors in the history of genetics up to and including the "rediscoverers" of 1900. Most of these notices are accompanied by portraits.

This book can be placed beside *Plant Hybridization Before Mendel* (H. E. Roberts, 1929) and *Vererbungswissenschaft* (Alfred Barthelmess, 1952) as an initial work on the history of genetics. It is more comprehensive than either of these with respect to the central ideas of genetics before 1900, and it will have a wider appeal to students of genetics and of the history of science.

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The Danish Cancer Registry

Statistical Studies of the Aetiology of Malignant Neoplasms. vol. 1, *Review and Results* (xvi + 543 pp.); vol. 2, *Basic Tables: Denmark, 1943–57* (iv + 319 pp.). Johannes Clemmesen. Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1965. Illus. Kr 160.

The Danish Cancer Registry, which was organized in 1942, has the advantages provided by full access to information on death certificates and to mortality data. These volumes, an outgrowth of the Registry's fine work over the years, contain a description of the Registry and its mode of work.

Volume 1, *Review and Results*, consists of chapters that deal with various types of cancer and a review of the