chose for it. This collection of 16 papers is the result of the conference. As a prelude to the contributions on muscle Robert Stämpfli provides a biographical essay recounting something of Huxley's family background and some personal reminiscences focused on the period during which the neurophysiological research that led to the 1963 prize, shared with Alan Hodgkin and John Eccles. was being conducted. (On Hodgkin's contribution to this work see the review of his autobiography in Science, 2 October.) Stämpfli's essay is followed by another by Simmons that describes in a similar vein Huxley's research on muscle, which began in 1951 at a time when (he is quoted as saying) "there was . . . no obvious way of pushing the analysis of excitation to a deeper level." In the remaining papers 19 authors from six nations who have worked in Huxley's laboratory give more technical accounts of their own work on such subjects as inactivation of human sodium channels (Rüdel and Fakler), calcium-induced calcium release in skeletal muscle (Endo), hypodynamic tension changes in the frog heart (Niedergerke and Page), high-speed digital imaging microscopy of isolated muscle cells (Taylor and Roos), and the mechano-chemistry of negatively strained crossbridges in skeletal muscle (Goldman). In addition to the extensive bibliographies of Huxley's own works that follow the two opening essays there is a combined reference list for the volume as a whole, and a brief index is included.

—Katherine Livingston

The Biology of Millipedes. STEPHEN P. HOP-KIN and HELEN J. READ. Oxford University Press, New York, 1992. xii, 233 pp., illus. \$70.

Dispelling an assumption that might be made by the literal-minded, the authors open this work by reporting that the "world champion" among the millipedes has only 375 pairs of legs. Most of the approximately 10,000 species in the class (Diplopoda) make do with fewer than 50, and these are distinguished from those in the other classes of myriapods in being arranged two pairs, rather than only one, to a body segment, a feature that enables the millipedes to "exert a considerable forward thrust." Noting that the millipedes are the only major group of terrestrial invertebrates that have not been the subject of an introductory text in English, Hopkin and Read have set out to remedy that deficiency. The treatment follows the conventional format for such works, beginning with systematics, evolution, and zoogeography and proceeding, in a total of 10 chapters, through basic anatomy, feeding and metabolic arrangements,

the nervous system, reproduction, and development and life history to broader considerations of the group's place in the world. Ecologically, millipedes feed primarily on decaying plant material, playing roles of varying importance in soil processes; appear to have achieved much of their worldwide dispersal by passive means; and aggregate in large numbers for reasons that are unclear but with effects that include such inconveniences as the delay of railroad trains. As to the direct importance of the group to humanity, the authors otherwise make only modest claims and conclude the book by advocating the study of these "dare we say it, endearing creatures" for their own sake.

—Katherine Livingston

Books Received

Accretion Power in Astrophysics. Juhan Frank, Andrew King, and Derek Raine. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1992. xvi, 294 pp., illus. \$79.95; paper, \$37.95.

The Adrenal Gland. Vivian H. T. James, Ed. 2nd ed. Raven, New York, 1992. xiv, 513 pp., illus. \$138.

Comprehensive Endocrinology.

Aging and Alzheimer's Disease. Sensory Systems, Neuronal Growth, and Neuronal Metabolism.
John H. Growdon et al., Eds. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1991. xiv, 303 pp., illus. \$75.
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol. 640. From a meeting, Zurich, Switzerland, Feb. 1991.

Aging and Neuropsychological Assessment. Asenath La Rue. Plenum, New York, 1992. xvi, 369 pp., illus. \$45. Critical Issues in Neuropsychology.

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Biosynthesis. Molecular and Cell Biochemistry. Smith and Wood. Chapman and Hall, New York, 1992. xiv, 226 pp., illus. Paper, \$27.

Butterfly Conservation. T. R. New. Oxford University Press, New York, 1992. xii, 224 pp., illus. Paper, \$29.95. Reprint, 1991 ed.
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Dinosaur Systematics. Approaches and Perspectives. Kenneth Carpenter and Philip J. Currie, Eds. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1992. xvi, 318 pp., illus. Paper, \$29.95. From a symposium, Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, June 1986. Reprint, 1990 ed.

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Handbook of Gene Level Diagnostics in Clinical Practice. Victor A. Bernstam. CRC, Boca Raton, FL, 1992. xxiv, 695 pp. \$99.50.

Ivory Diptych Sundials, 1570–1750. Steven A. Lloyd. Harvard University Collection of Scientific Instruments, Cambridge, MA, 1992 (distributor, Harvard University Press, Cambridge). vi, 169 pp., illus. \$50.

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