

# A Plan for Biology Textbook Reviews

We have purposely excluded textbook reviews from *The American Biology Teacher* until we could develop a plan that gave promise of producing evaluations worthy of consideration. We have developed an approach to this problem of evaluation that is different from the traditional one. Whether it is more valuable remains to be seen. Suggestions for revising our present method of obtaining reviews and general criticisms of it are always welcome. With your cooperation we are ready to introduce the plan outlined herewith.

Each textbook review will consist of five sections contributed by five separate reviewers working independently. Each section of the review will deal with one of the following aspects of the book:

- 1.—Mechanical Make-up and Cost.
- 2.—Pedagogical Soundness.
- 3.—Subject Matter.
- 4.—Literary Style.
- 5.—Learning Exercises and Teacher Helps.

Our present task is to establish a committee of reviewers. We urge all secondary school teachers of biology who are interested in taking part in this work to send their names to the chairman of this committee with a brief statement of the elements of textbook evaluation to which they would like to be assigned. Arrangements have been completed with many publishers to provide an adequate supply of copies of the texts under consideration for the reviewers.

We appreciate that this work is of general interest and we hope that many of our qualified readers will avail themselves of this opportunity to render a valuable

service to biology teaching. The committee on textbook reviews should be large so that points of view expressed be representative of the country as a whole. We should start with a committee of at least a hundred names. We urge that all interested members communicate without delay with the chairman of the textbook reviewing committee:

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## A NEW CHAPTER

The first meeting of the Southern California Association of Biology Teachers, a chapter of the National Association of Biology Teachers, was held January the ninth at the John H. Francis High School in Los Angeles.

The officers elected were Miss Edith A. Kraeft, President; Mr. George F. Hottfrerich, Vice-President; Mr. Robert P. Hays, Treasurer; Mrs. Karyn B. Sanders, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. Doris C. Siddall, Corresponding Secretary.

DORIS C. SIDDALL,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

(Continued from page 160)

eugenics, Mendelian laws and their application, allergy and immunity, paleontology and migrations, mutation and the gene theory, adaptation and environment—to mention only a few topics. But these topics can be adequately taught only to those students whose minds have developed the capacity to think in broad terms. They should, with others of a similar nature, form the core of an *upper-grade* course in biology.