

who unites them without himself being changed in the process. But some of these couples approach the judge (who is the preacher in disguise) and when he divorces their union, they leave as separate individuals again.

Could one want a better, or clearer, or simpler analogy to explain enzyme action? Professor Gerard's book is a storehouse for any teacher in need of such similes. The gradient from the head to the tail of a planarian is compared with an army, from the general down to the buck private; genes are compared to pioneers, who do not carry with them the objects used in civilization, but rather the tools with which to make them; a glucose molecule is compared in structure to a centipede; the difference in chemical structure between ethyl alcohol and methyl ether is compared to the difference between the words "each" and "ache."

All these analogies, and a host of others, make it easier for the reader to understand the complexities of life. For that is what the book aims to do—explain how living things work. It turns out that life is carried on by complex systems of molecules which react according to physical and chemical laws. These systems are basically the same, although they may appear outwardly different.

Although I can not agree with the statement on the jacket of the book to the effect that it is written ". . . in simple language which presupposes no previous scientific training on the part of the student," I do think that a person with some background in biology, chemistry, and physics, can gain a better understanding of what constitutes life by reading *Unresting Cells*.

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BRYAN, ARTHUR H., AND BRYAN, CHARLES G. *Principles and Practice of Bacteriology*. Barnes & Noble, Inc., New York. 410 pp. 1940. Paper. \$1.25.

This paper bound book is a revision of the 1938 edition of "Principles and Practice of Bacteriology," rewritten to include changes suggested by teachers and technicians in leading colleges and universities, and some new material.

Informational material and laboratory practice included is in clear concise form, and covers the study of pathogenic yeasts and molds, plant diseases, soil microbiology, dairy bacteria, viruses, pathogenic protozoa, veterinary pathogens, human pathogens and allied organisms. Numerous reference tables and charts summarize at a glance lengthy subject matter.

Review questions are found in the appendix in the form of self-testing achievement examinations, which review the fundamentals of bacteriology. A separate part of the book is devoted to newer phases of the study of serology and immunity. There is a comprehensive glossary and index.

The book is prefaced with a series of attractive actual color views of better known pathogenic bacteria, stained with "Soloid" microscopic stains.

It is primarily a book for use in college classes and schools teaching laboratory technique, but is recommended as a useful addition to the library of the high school biology teacher who includes considerable instruction in bacteriology in his course of study. It would help greatly to enrich and make more accurate and up-to-date the material used in such class work, and would be admirable as a concise reference book for student projects in the field of bacteriology.

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