

schools sponsoring student projects, the references are hardly adequate. A very complete index of twenty-two pages, double column is included. The text does not include a glossary, and no reference is made to a separate workbook for pupils. A manual of suggestions for teachers (14 pages) accompanies the text.

ALAN A. NATHANS (Chairman)  
FRANKLIN R. MYERS, New Jersey  
ANNE L. BIGLER, California  
IRENE KERSTETTER, New Jersey  
T. R. SEMEN, Oklahoma

ROSE, MARY S., and BOSLEY, BERTLYN. *Vegetables To Help Us Grow*. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University. 25 pp. 1941. Paper, 35¢.

This pamphlet explains in detail a Nutrition Unit for use in the Primary Grades, which can be presented with a minimum of equipment and expense. The "party" idea is carried out as raw vegetables are introduced, discussed, prepared for eating, and enjoyed by the group. This method should help solve food problems of some children as it teaches the value of certain foods for body growth. Some simple raw-vegetable recipes for use at home are included.

BERTHA ROBINSON,  
State Teachers College,  
Emporia, Kansas.

CHANDLER, ASA C. *The Eater's Digest*. Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., New York. x + 343 pp. illus. 1941. \$2.75.

Not often does a book on a scientific subject achieve both technical accuracy and true popularity of style and expression. Generally one is at the expense of the other. But here is a volume that both layman and professional can read with enjoyment and profit. Wherever he can do so without misleading his readers, the author uses a common word instead of a technical term. The necessary technicalities are introduced with many illustrations and analogies, so as to make for ready understanding. Thirty-one chapters, all written entertainingly, tell about the fuel and building materials of our foods, eating and digestion, vitamins, body minerals, acidosis and alkalosis, allergies, square meals, calories, "girth control," laxation, food preservation, food-borne diseases, ptomaine poisoning, special-purpose foods and many kindred topics. This is not a "debunking" book, but it does present the essential principles of the whole subject of nutrition in such a way that the reader is able himself to separate the truth from the bunk in what he reads in the popular press and hears on the radio. There are several tabular sum-

maries which enhance the value of the book from the reference standpoint. About forty sketches of the cartoon type add much to the enjoyment and understanding of the subjects treated. One specially useful feature, often missing from a book of this type, is the excellent index. This work should be in all libraries, especially those of high schools. Both pupils and teachers will want to refer to it over and over.

JOHN BREUKELMAN

ZIM, HERBERT S. *Mice, Men and Elephants*. Harcourt, Brace and Company. New York. 215 pp. 1942. \$2.00.

This book deals with the study of mammals, their characteristics and relationships. In simple language each of the typical mammalian features is explained and illustrated. The author calls attention to the fact that sometime during their lives all mammals have hair. Their hearts are "nearly perfect pumps which help them keep up steam." They have well developed brains and are better able to use them than are the lower animals. Their methods of producing young and caring for them are unique in the animal kingdom.

*Mice, Men and Elephants* is written primarily for students of high school age but might prove interesting to the casual reader. Diagrams and photographs add to the simplicity and attractiveness of the book.

Of particular interest to young people is the account of the "mammals' family tree," the main groups of mammals, their interrelationships and the place of men among mammals.

The author, a science teacher himself, has had much experience with young people and has tried to make a direct appeal to them.

RUTH A. DODGE

## Biological Briefs

DITMARS, RAYMOND L. *Vampires from Trinidad*. Bulletin of the New York Zoological Society 44: 171-176. November-December, 1941.

Dr. Ditmars here describes a visit to Trinidad to collect a series of vampire bats for the Zoological Society. In tropical countries this animal may present a serious problem, since its sharp, gashing bite leaves a wound which may bleed several hours and which may transmit such diseases as trypanosomiasis and paralytic rabies. The species has been greatly reduced in its Trinidad distribution by intensive hunting under government auspices, but 19 specimens were secured in hollow trees and caves. In captivity,