

# Reviews

## BOOKS

BISHOP, SHERMAN C. *Handbook of Salamanders*. Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. xiv + 555 pp. illus. 1943. \$5.00.

A frequent job of the biology teacher is to identify specimens brought in by curious students who expect the teacher to have at least a speaking acquaintance with everything alive. Handbooks useful to the general biologist, however, have yet to cover some of the important animal groups.

With publication of Bishop's *Handbook of Salamanders*, another gap is filled. Following a summary of the biology and habits of salamanders, the book consists of identification keys and descriptive notes on all known salamanders of the United States, Canada, and Lower California. The extensive bibliography is conveniently arranged by states.

The treatment of each species follows a uniform pattern: *Type Locality, Range, Habitat, Size, Description, Color, Breeding, and Larvae*. Photographs, line drawings, and maps add to the value of the book.

To learn how this first complete guide to the salamanders is being received by specialists on the cold-blooded vertebrates, I questioned Dr. Reeve M. Bailey of Iowa State College. Besides giving it his highest praise, he reminded me that there is still much to learn about the habits and distribution of even the common species of salamanders. Teachers might add much worthwhile data by encouraging students to collect local specimens and send them, properly labeled, to some authority in the state concerned.

GUSTAFSON, A. F., GUISE, C. H., HAMILTON, W. J., JR., RIES, H. *Conservation in the United States*. 2nd ed. Comstock Publishing Company, Inc., Ithaca, New York. 477 pp. illus. 1944.

When a critic quibbles over small details, he is reviewing a good book. So to get this part of it over—the bibliography might have included some of the better educational films on conservation; and the magazine *Bird Lore*, which has changed names since the first edition of this book, might have been called *Audubon Magazine*.

The authorship—including a soil technician, forester, zoologist, and geologist—illustrates the wide scope of the conservation problem today. Further, it breaks the book into topical sections which for actual class work should be related to one another by

supplementary reading and discussion. For in functional conservation soil science, forestry, wildlife management, and wise use of minerals are intimately bound together.

An effective student project in the use of this fine source book would be to show how the wise use of soils is related to sustained yield of forests, how trees effect wildlife, how animals in turn affect the environment which sustains them, and finally how the management of renewable biologic resources is related to conservation of those which are not renewable such as coal and iron. It's an angle that should challenge postwar planners, young and old.

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HOERR, NORMAND L., ET AL. *Frontiers in Cytochemistry*. Biological Symposia, Vol. X. Jaques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pa. vii + 334 pp. illus. 1943. \$3.50.

This volume of *Biological Symposia* is a summation of what is known about several phases of the chemical and physical organization of cytoplasm. It is the fruition of many years of work by investigators who were taught and inspired by Professor R. R. Bensley, and who conducted the symposium in his honor. As a source of information it is invaluable to all who desire the latest first-hand information about protoplasm. But more than that, it is inspirational in that it shows the tremendous influence of the able teacher and the marked appreciation of those who were fortunate enough to have been under his tutelage or who were inspired to develop their ideas along the lines he so ably pointed out. The book is profitable reading for any serious biologist.

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JEAN, FRANK C., HARRAH, E. C., AND POWERS, S. R. *Man and his Biological World*. Ginn and Co., New York. viii + 630 pp. illus. 1944. \$3.50.

The 23 chapters of this book are arranged in nine units, which have titles of about a dozen words each, but are essentially as follows: 1. Nutrition, 2. Reproduction, 3. Adaptation, 4. Disease Control, 5. Metabolic Cycles, 6. Balance of Nature, 7. Evolution, 8. Heredity, 9. Cultural Development. The unit organization seems rather artificial, and nothing seems to be gained by the excessively long titles; however, these are minor peevish