

Books

URBAN, JOHN. *Behavior Changes Resulting from a Study of Communicable Diseases*. 1st ed. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. 110 pp. 1943. \$1.85.

Will a study of the more common communicable diseases cause Jim to stop biting his finger nails or make Mary use a handkerchief when she coughs or sneezes? The author of the study made a list of pupil behavior traits which he and a group of critics considered to be contributory to the spread of disease. By carefully controlled classroom experimentation he sought to determine the effects of factual knowledge concerning communicable diseases on the actual overt behavior of high school biology students. Changes in behavior were ascertained by interview and direct observation of pupil activity. Two achievement tests of high reliability and correlation were used also.

Biology teachers must be more concerned in the future over the effects of their teaching on improved student health habits. Careful study of this controlled experiment will be helpful toward that end. It is a direct challenge to us to learn how to make our teaching more effective.

W. A. BETTS,
*University Medical School,
Galveston, Texas*

NOBLE, RUTH CROSBY. *The Nature of the Beast*. Doubleday Doran, Garden City, New York. viii + 224 pp. Illus. 1945. \$2.75.

This semi-popular discussion of animal behavior was written by the widow of the late G. K. Noble, noted biologist of the American Museum of Natural History. She is a competent biologist in her own right and shared in her husband's work. The book contains seventeen chapters on various phases of animal activity, such as instinct, emotions, social development, courtship, parenthood, hormone effects, abnormal behavior and the like. Clear and concise language brings the more difficult subject matter well within the range of interested high school students. The number of technical terms is relatively small, but there has been no attempt to avoid them completely. They are used whenever necessary for clarity and carefully defined as they appear. There are eight pages of clear photographs illustrating many of the fundamentals described in the text. The bibliography includes both general references and technical papers. The index is unusually well organized and arranged although it omits some of the tech-

nical terms used in the text. *The Nature of the Beast* should be on the shelves of all high school and college libraries and will no doubt be widely read by those interested in the every-day activities of animals.

JOHN BREUKELMAN

CHANDLER, ASA C. *Introduction to Parasitology*. Seventh Edition. John Wiley and Sons, New York. x + 716 pp. Illus. 1944. \$5.00.

The massing of men and their movement to all parts of the world have greatly increased our need for adequate knowledge of the parasites which commonly affect man. Extensive work in the field of parasitology has been so productive that present texts on the subject must be almost completely rewritten to include the latest findings in morphology, life history and relationships, to present the most modern methods of treatment with such drugs as atabrine and penicillin, and to conform with the new viewpoints resulting from this more extensive knowledge. This edition of a much-used text, while presenting the fundamental facts and principles expected in an introduction to parasitology, includes the latest developments on most of the common parasites affecting man and his domestic animals. Consequently the book can serve the biologist as a handy reference in answering the commonly asked questions relative to the parasites native to other countries as well as to those of our own.

BROTHER H. CHARLES, F.S.C.,
*St. Mary's College,
Winona, Minn.*

BETTS, WILLIAM A. and LEE, ADDISON. *Biology Work Text*. The Steck Company, Austin, Texas. 158 pp. 1944.

The eleven units included in this work text cover what is offered in most general biology classes. Each unit is subdivided into problems, which are either experiments or exercises. Every unit is preceded by an introduction which gives the student an overview of the work involved in solving the problems covered in the unit. Parallel references from leading biology text books are given with each unit.

The experiments or exercises are presented in the form used by many teachers, such as: materials, procedure, and conclusions. One feature of this work text, which will appeal to many teachers, is the fact that the experiments and exercises can be completed by the student in a regular class period. There is a minimum of drawing to be done by the

student: diagrams which the student is to label after having examined the particular structure under the microscope have been substituted. No special equipment or elaborate technique is required for these experiments and exercises; they can be worked out by students in schools with a limited amount of equipment and funds for expendable materials. Much of the material needed can be secured locally, and this should be an aid to teachers in schools with limited resources.

At the conclusion of each unit there is a series of review questions, and "Some Things to Do." The suggestions for additional work on each unit are practical and will appeal to the high school boy and girl interested in biology. Self-testing exercises are also a part of some of the units. A separate series of unit tests accompanies the work text. All in all, there is variety enough to take care of the varied interests of biology students.

MELVIN A. HINTZ,
*South Milwaukee High School,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

POPULATION GENETICS

The accompanying advertisement offers an opportunity for biology teachers to make a contribution to an experiment in the fundamentals of population genetics. As stated by Dr. Shull in his article in the March, 1945, *AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER*, "to make the desired applications of the results, it will be necessary to obtain collections of lady beetles from all over North America. Most of these must be obtained through other biologists, . . ."

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A. FRANKLIN SHULL, *Dept. of Zoology*
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