

For the most part balance of space devoted to various subjects has been accomplished; however, the lack of discussion regarding helpful bacteria as compared to harmful bacteria and the almost complete omission of discussion of the organic cycle in nature should be noted.

Excellent illustrations throughout the book, references to visual aids, usable questions at the end of chapters, a useful bibliography and glossary at the end of the book, and many progressive features of the text outweigh possible criticisms. The reviewer recommends this book for serious consideration to any American high school biology teacher.

ADDISON LEE,  
*University of Texas,  
Austin, Texas*

WOLF, FREDERICK A. AND FREDERICK T.  
*The Fungi.* John Wiley & Sons, Inc.,  
New York. Vol. I, vii + 438 pp., 1947.  
Price \$6.00. Vol. II, vii + 538 pp., 1947.  
Price \$6.50.

*Fungi*, in two volumes, is a scholarly treatise on the morphology, taxonomy and the activities and natural economy of fungi. An interesting history of mycology introduces Volume I. A welcome feature of the first volume, for teachers and students alike, is found in chapter two which is devoted to the isolation and cultivation of fungi, followed by classification and taxonomy in chapter three. Information on some of the lesser known families, which only advanced students would have occasion to use, has been omitted, as well as material on the lichens. The literature cited at the end of each chapter is adequate and will furnish the serious student with ample reference material.

Volume I serves as sort of an introduction to fungi while Volume II treats of the activities of fungi with the emphasis on metabolism and reproduction. In this most timely contribution to the study of fungi the authors have departed from the traditional taxonomic aspects to emphasize the physiological and ecological aspects, even though they do not purport that Volume II is a well-rounded physiology and ecology of fungi.

Both books are intended as reference and text books. Since most readers of "The American Biology Teacher" are teachers in our high schools it might be stated that these volumes will be of help to those teachers who have had some special work in mycology. The books are for college level and are too technical for general use as high school references.

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

ROSS, HERBERT H. *A Textbook of Entomology.* John Wiley & Sons. New York. ix + 532 pp. 439 illus. 1948. \$6.00.

Within the compass of this new textbook, Professor Ross has succeeded in presenting the basic principles of entomology. Beginning with a historical approach, the author traces the genesis and growth of this special science in our continent. Many of the pioneer workers in this field, together with their contributions, are brought to the reader's attention. Following this is a concise comparison of the Arthropod classes, including a brief account of the Onychophora. Selected representatives from these groups are figured. One chapter each is devoted to the external and the internal insect anatomy. The physiology of organs, and also the life cycle of these animals is clearly presented. The next portion of the text discusses and illustrates the basic structures, functions, and characteristics of the orders of insects in North America. One chapter deals with the geological background of insects. This important information will enable students to compound existing species with their affinities to prehistoric ones. The ecological aspect of this work is especially well done. Here we learn of the biological and physical combination of factors and their degree of intensities, which are favorably or unfavorably interrelated with the insects and their environment. The final chapter gives an account of insect damage and effective methods of control. The discussion includes both the new insecticides and those which have been standard for years.

This reviewer is impressed with the first edition of this textbook. It is a significant contribution which, because of its logical or-