

MCCAY, CLIVE M. *Nutrition of the Dog*. Second ed. Comstock Publishing Co., Ithaca, N. Y. x+337 pp. illus. 1949. \$3.50.

This book is designed for those who have a scientific interest in the feeding and care of dogs. Only information supported by evidence gained from carefully conducted and recorded experiments is included.

Each chapter is arranged so that essential, applied knowledge is presented first. Later, the material becomes more technical and finally, for veterinarians and scientists generally, there is a bibliography.

The American desire for pets can now be better satisfied than in the more recent past. For one thing, families are moving to the edge of cities where there is more room. War experiences have indicated the greater possibilities of dog training. Consequently, as the population becomes older, the need so often felt by the old for the companionship of dogs can be better realized. Therefore, a book with accurate information concerning the nutrition and care of the dog can easily become one of the more valuable of the household books.

PHILIP E. FOSS,
Hartford Public High School,
Hartford, Connecticut

OOSTING, HENRY J. *The Study of Plant Communities*. W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco. 389 pp. illus. 1948. \$4.50.

The book is an interesting, readable introduction into plant ecology in which no attempt is made to summarize known information fully. Logical arrangement and completeness of basic material, however, make a textbook of wide usefulness on the college level. Conflicts in terms and ideas are developed into workable conclusions, and challenging problems are made evident. The high school teacher with limited knowledge of ecology will enjoy reading many chapters and will gain numerous interesting ideas for science teaching.

Briefly, the areas covered are the nature of the community, the quantitative and qualitative methods of vegetative analysis, phys-

ical and biological factors controlling the community, the present distribution and dynamics of communities in North America, and applied ecology as it relates to various phases of agriculture and to man. There are 276 particularly well-chosen references at the end of the book. General references are also given at the end of each chapter.

The typography and format are excellent, and the binding of the book is durable. The number of half tones and the number of line drawings are in good proportion for the kind of book.

ROBERT C. McCAFFERTY,
Central High School,
Wadsworth, Ohio

M. W. DE LAUBENFELS. *Life Science*. Fourth ed. Prentice Hall Inc., 70 Fifth Ave., New York 11. vi, 407 pp. figs. 1024. 1949. \$5.75.

Life Science is a welcome contribution to the science of biology. The treatment is original, interesting, and different. In reading the book you gain the impression that the author is talking to you directly. The excellent illustrations and numerous drawings are more than adequate and are one of the features of this book. The page size, 8×11, enables the author to present many photographs which would not be possible with a smaller size page.

The book is made up of 28 chapters incorporated into five major parts—General Biology, Human Biology, Plant Biology, Animal Biology, and Social Biology. The enumeration of the key word designating the title of each chapter will emphasize the comprehensive coverage of this book: biology, biophysics, biochemistry, cytology, embryology, histology, anatomy, physiology, psychology, hygiene, immunology, dietetics, botany, phytophysiology, taxonomy, agriculture, bacteriology, zoology, oceanography, parasitology, entomology, zoogeography, ecology, genetics, eugenics, paleontology, anthropology, and philosophy.

Life Science is a stimulating book and one which can be read with interest and understanding by the layman. Since it has many interesting facts, experiences, and observa-

tions which give the reader a compelling story of the living world, it is an excellent reference for high school students.

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

EMERSON, FRED W. and SHIELDS, LORA MANGUM. *Laboratory and Field Exercises in Botany*. The Blakiston Co., Philadelphia, Pa. 303 pp. 34 plates, 2 figures. 1949. \$2.50.

This is a well written and thoroughly comprehensive laboratory teaching aid for elementary botany at the college level. It combines some of the best features of a laboratory manual with those of a laboratory workbook.

The authors have used a judicious amount of space to cover the physiological and ecological aspects of the subject, which should help the teacher to offer a dynamic course in general botany. To aid the student, a brief outline of the subject matter to be covered is given at the beginning of each exercise. The authors take into account

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