tions as well as the State Scholarship examinations will be constructed so as not to penalize pupils who have been excused from instruction in the specified units of study.

School administrators and teachers will recognize the desirability of carrying out the provisions of this law in a way that will avoid causing embarrassment to any pupil or parent.

LEWIS A. WILSON
Acting Commissioner of Education

BOOKS

SNYDER, LAURENCE H. *The Principles of Heredity.* 3d ed. D. C. Heath and Company, Boston. xvi + 450 pp. illus. 1946. $3.50.

The third edition of this excellent and widely used text has been improved in a number of ways, especially through a regrouping of topics and the addition of new material on such subjects as the Rh factor and the genetics of Neurospora. The fundamental plan of the book has not been changed.

The author, one of the leading students of human genetics in this country, uses numerous examples from man to illustrate various principles. Since this is a general text, plants and animals are widely used also. The three concluding chapters deal with human problems specifically: the titles of these chapters are The Mutant Gene in Man; Eugenics; and The Analysis of Human Family Histories. Principles and practical applications are discussed without presenting lists of human genetic traits. The book is illustrated with numerous line drawings and halftones and three color plates.

Although this book is intended for use in college classes much of it may be read with profit by the more intelligent high school students. It may be recommended as a valuable reference work for the high school library.

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GRIMM, W. C. *The Trees of Pennsylvania.* Stackpole and Heck, Inc. New York. xii + 363 pp. 1950. $5.00.

The book is divided into six main sections: 1. The Study of Trees, 2. How Trees Grow, 3. Tree Identification, 4. The Distribution of Trees, 5. Species of Trees and 6. The List of Trees Arranged According to Families.

The Study of Trees describes the differences between the shrubs and trees, and also tells what is included in the book to aid in the study of trees. *How Trees Grow* is a description of photosynthesis and growth and very few technical terms are used in this section. The text is mainly composed of the description of the species of the trees, in which the distinguishing characteristics of each species are described, the keys by which the species may be identified and excellent illustrations of the leaves, buds, fruits, twigs and the leaf scars for each species.

The scientific terminology associated with the tree study has been limited to very few words, the meanings of which are defined in the glossary and described in the introductory text. Under the list of trees arranged according to the families, are the list of common names and scientific names of the specimens.

The paper of the text is fair and would withstand constant wear. However, in the reviewer's opinion the book is too large, each page about the size of an average notebook paper, and would not be easy to carry on a field trip, where it would be most useful. The text is fairly easily read and a person can quickly find the information on the specimens he wishes to look up. The table of contents lists all the species described in the text. The author concluded the text with a glossary, selected references and the index.

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SELECTED PROCEDURES IN TEACHING BIOLOGY, by E. Irene Hollenbeck and Elmo Nall Stevenson has just arrived at the editor's desk. It is a 56 page digest which has grown out of Miss Hollenbeck's master's thesis under Dr. Stevenson. A review will be published later.