

cussion of these; and third, an over-all picture or view of the vertebrates with emphasis on the evolutionary aspects of man.

Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates contains 332 illustrations on the 316 pages of actual text material. Most of the drawings are well-labeled line drawings either drawn or redrawn by the author and are suited for the text material. Another commendable feature is that the text frequently refers to the illustrations and these figures are usually on the same page as the reference. No glare is produced from the paper and the print is easy to read. Italicized bold-faced type is used for printing important words. Each chapter is divided into subheadings and some of the chapters contain introductory paragraphs. Sixty-nine references comprise the bibliography and the accurate, 19-page index contains italicized page numbers when the item is illustrated on the page. On the inside of the cover of the book is a graphic chart showing the relationship of the vertebrate group from their earliest appearance in the Ordovician Period to the present time.

This book can be recommended for a one-semester course and the author's informal but informative style should appeal to the college student.

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FISCHER, GEORGE WILLIAM. *The Smut Fungi*.
Ronald Press Company, New York. vii
+ 387 pp. 1951. \$6.00.

The long and tedious task of searching through journals, books, and periodicals, for available literature on the smut fungi is eliminated with the publication of this book. Here teachers and research workers in this particular field will find listed the literature available on 330 species of smut fungi.

The book is divided into two parts. In part one the available literature is listed alphabetically and chronologically under the following subject-matter guide subdivisions: Control; Culture on Artificial Media; Cytology; Heterothallism and Sex; Hybridization and Genetics; Life History, Parasitism, and Factors Affecting; Longevity of Spores; Miscellaneous Records; Physiologic Speciali-

zation; Spore Germination and Factors Affecting; and Varietal Resistance and Susceptibility. The bibliography which makes up the second part of the book lists 3353 articles appearing in scientific papers, bulletins, and books. The author does not claim that all species of smut fungi are represented, this being due primarily to the lack of information about their biology and control at the time the book was being prepared.

A distinct feature of this book is the list of chronologically arranged references under the various subject-matter guide subdivisions. Workers in plant pathology, mycology, agronomy and botany will find this book valuable especially when embarking on a research problem. Subject-matter specialists in other phases of mycology and plant pathology have a pattern which they might well follow in preparing a similar work in their special fields.

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ROBINSON, F. A. *The Vitamin B Complex*.
John Wiley and Sons, New York. xi + 688
pp. 1951. \$9.00.

This book reviews all the published literature on the subject of the Vitamin B Complex. It includes an evaluation, selection and re-arrangement of the most important facts. The book indicates the resemblance of the separate vitamins of the complex to each other. There is material not only on their distribution in foodstuffs but their biological effects on plants and animals generally, including the insects and the micro-organisms.

There are methods of assay for analysts; methods of synthesis for pharmaceutical manufacturers; the nature of deficiencies in animals and man for agriculturists and clinicians; and nutrition of micro-organisms for the microbiologists. Extensive literature references are also supplied for specialists in each field. There can be little doubt of the great value the book would have for research workers in the field.

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