



**BACTO  
ORCHID AGAR  
Dehydrated**

BACTO-ORCHID AGAR is a dehydrated culture medium to be used in the germination of orchid seedlings. It is prepared in accordance with the formula suggested by Knudson in the American Orchid Society Bulletin, 15:214:1946.

To rehydrate the medium suspend 37 grams of the powder in 1000 ml. of cold distilled water and heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely. Sterilize in the usual manner. The reaction of the medium subsequent to sterilization is pH 5.0.

Bacto-Orchid Agar is distributed in standard packages of 1 pound and ¼ pound, each pound being sufficient for the preparation of approximately 12.3 liters of complete medium.

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**History and Philosophy of Science**

J. THOMSON AND THE CAVENDISH LABORATORY IN HIS DAY, Sir George Thomson, 186 pp., \$4.95, Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1965.

The electron is one of the major concepts of the world. Without knowledge of the properties of this particle, we would not have the civilization we do today.

Eventually the nature of the electron and the proton would have been discovered. It is difficult to imagine modern chemistry and physics without knowledge of these elementary particles. Chemistry and classical physics would have made strides without the knowledge of the nature of these building blocks, but the strides would not have been so gigantic. They would have been mincing steps. But the experiments of Sir J. J. Thomson and the intellectual products of the Cavendish Laboratory forced modern physics into being, so that we now have nuclear reactors and the future source of energy for the world. "J. J." did not name these two building blocks of the universe, but he was the one who discovered them.

His influence on the Cavendish Laboratory and the products of the Cavendish School can not be measured. It was just tremendous as the energy source he unleashed with his experiments.

J. J. Thomson's influence in physics was far reaching. Seven men who worked under him at the Cavendish Laboratory became Nobel Laureates.

The author, Sir George Paget Thomson, son of "J. J.," has done a most complete piece of work in this book. However, to really appreciate this book more than a rudimentary knowledge of physics is required.

Frederic C. Schmidt  
*Department of Chemistry  
Indiana University*

IMMORTALS OF SCIENCE: GREGOR MENDEL AND HEREDITY, Robert N. Webb, 114 pp., \$2.95, Franklin Watts, Inc., New York, 1963.

This book not only portrays the life of one of the great pioneers in science, but it also gives the reader insight into the individual hardships that often confront scientists in the pursuit of their discoveries. This book should be recommended for the junior high school student. The more complex chapters concerning Mendel's investigations are written in a clear and concise method, so that the more inexperienced student can comprehend them. The book would make an excellent addition to the supplementary reading lists of a junior high school general science or biology class. The book gains its readability

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by presenting Mendel's story with sensitive insight plus giving the student an elementary discussion of the unique results of his experiments. The author's perceptive biography presents Mendel's life in an engaging manner and the characters are related with especially keen insight. The character development reaches great depths of understanding and one can easily become vicariously involved with each of the characters.

The publisher could have made use of topic headings throughout the chapters concerning his discoveries. One is never quite sure where the presentation of one law ends and another begins. With the understanding that this book is written for the junior high school level, a more extensive use of diagrams is indicated. The more sophisticated high school student would not require any more illustrations than are already present, but the younger student could utilize them for a clearer understanding. These flaws are purely mechanical and do not detract from the basic value of the book. The author shows a deft touch in combining elementary genetics with a fine biographical presentation. This book would definitely be a valuable addition to any school library.

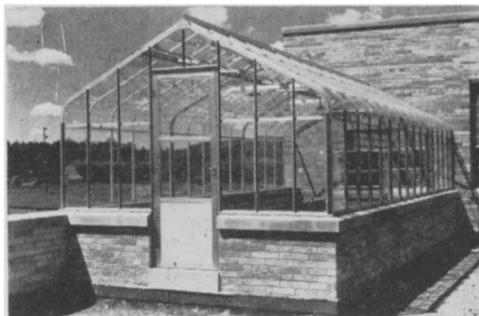
Stanley B. Brown  
School of Education  
Indiana University

#### Elementary Science

**PREGNANCY: CONCEPTION AND HEREDITY**, Eric Weiser, 148 pp., \$1.50, Blaisdell Publishing Company, New York, 1965.

This inexpensive paperback provides a modern, succinct, accurate, and tasteful account of conception and heredity. Topics discussed include; genetics, eugenics, sex determination, prenatal development, sterility, and birth control. Frank discussion of each concept permits the reader to view the latest research of scientists. The vocabulary level approximates that of a senior high school student or layman, and it could be used as a supplementary text for junior and senior health or physiology classes. If all high school seniors read this or a similarly written text, it would eliminate numerous misunderstandings, as well as help develop a more mature understanding of pregnancy, heredity, and children. The scholarly approach, excellent handling of the subject matter, and general clarity are of particular note. Parents and their teenagers alike would profit from reading this book.

Hans O. Anderson  
School of Education  
Indiana University



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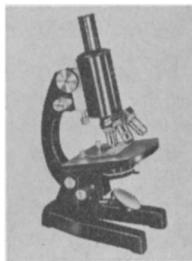
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