

Aside from subject matter content, other features include a table of time allotted to each "experiment," a list of supply sources, a "materials needed" list, a much-too-limited appendix on metric equivalents and chemical solutions, and handy perforated pages for student reports. What is not included, but what would be a welcome improvement, is a more detailed and complete table of contents, or else an index to facilitate rapid location of particular exercises from among the many and varied choices.

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LIVING TISSUES, R. L. Holmes, 142 pp., \$2.95, Pergamon Press, New York, 1965.

This book is intended to serve as an introductory text for the study of structure and function of tissues and is to be supplemented by a fuller textbook of histology. Although the book claims to be concerned with functional aspects of living tissues, very little is presented which can be considered functional. In fact, about 25% of the text is devoted to a very general description of how tissues are prepared for histological study. This section is not sufficient to be used as a guide in tissue preparation.

In a brief text of this sort, selection of materials is inevitable and therefore it contains rather arbitrary inclusions and exclusions. For example: very little is found on the blood and lymphatic tissues. What is included, however, is clearly and accurately covered.

In general, although there is much that is interesting and enlightening in this text, it will not be helpful to one who lacks a basic understanding of histology. Therefore, this book will not serve as an adequate introduction to a course in histology.

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NERVE, MUSCLE AND SYNAPSE, Bernard Katz, 193 pp., \$2.25, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, 1966.

This small paperback by Bernard Katz is the second volume published in the McGraw-Hill series in "The New Biology" edited by Professor George Wald of Harvard University. Professor Katz, a leading authority in the field of neurophysiology, intended this book for the college student in introductory biology. However, the material presented is much more than introductory; it is a rather extensive though compact presentation of the development of

current concepts on the physiological interaction and structural relationship of nerves and muscles. The author deals with topics of neuromuscular organization, the electrical phenomena involved, initiation and transmission of impulses across the cell membrane and neuronal synapses.

The book is valuable to the serious student in biology who may contemplate a career in neurophysiology. Senior biologists in less related specialties may also find the book useful in filling in gaps in their knowledge on this subject. Several tables and graphs taken from original sources help in summarizing data; over 150 references are included.

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HOMEOSTASIS, L. L. Langley, 114 pp., \$1.95, Reinhold Book Division, New York, 1965.

A paperback with the most lucid description of the concept of homeostasis this reviewer has seen. The author is in the NIH but he has a splendid gift of exposition which should put him in the classroom immediately.

The concept of homeostasis is introduced by a fascinating historical treatment and a description of the principal ramifications. Various aspects are described in detail: regulation of temperature, weight, blood pressure, respiratory, fluid, hormonal balance, and movement. The final chapter concerns speculations as to how the principle may be applied to other areas, such as population, buffers and circadian rhythms, and a most interesting treatment it is.

The book is illustrated and told in a most interesting manner. An excellent treatment.

HUMAN BODY COMPOSITION, Josef Brozek, Ed., 311 pp., \$12.00, Pergamon Press, Long Island City, New York, 1966.

For over 100 years, there have been attempts to assess the tissue constituents of the human body. Not until 1942, however, was a breakthrough made which has opened the way for techniques having greater accuracy and more sophistication to be brought to bear on this aspect of human biology. One consequence of this is the formation of a Society for the Study of Human Biology in 1958; another consequence is yearly symposia, informal at first but now annual under the auspices of the Society. This book is Volume 7 of a conference held in London in 1963.

By bringing symposiasts from a wide range of disciplines, laboratories, and countries, the presentation is enriched in presenting technical