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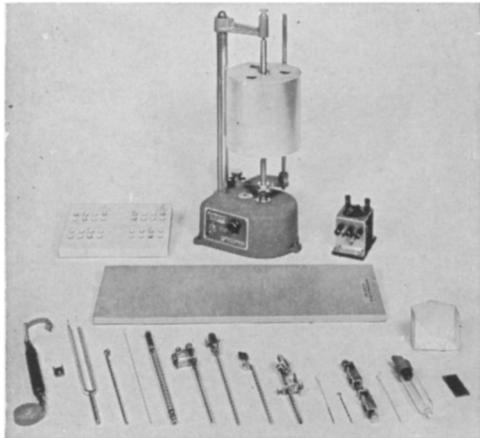
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important contributions. The chapter on "Tools and Toils" is particularly valuable as a review of fundamental biological phenomena which can be used in virology. These are excellent descriptions.

THE BIOLOGY OF ANIMAL PARASITES, Thomas C. Cheng, 727 pp., \$13.50, W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1964.

This is an excellent modern textbook in general parasitology. The coverage of parasites of animals other than man is particularly comprehensive. The taxonomic coverage is very good, but there is also considerable material on biology. The book will make an excellent reference for the school library and serve as supplementary reading and reference in advanced work in biology.

Frank N. Young
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Genetics

THE MECHANICS OF INHERITANCE, Frank Stahl, 171 pp., \$4.95, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, 1966.

This book is a volume in the publishers *Foundations of Modern Genetics Series*. The book jacket indicates that the author will take up genetics from the point of view from what is known today and working back to some of the more general principles enunciated earlier in history. Although this approach has been conveniently used by teachers and authors, it does not come off very well in this book except for the student who has had a very rigorous course in genetics and is keenly alert to all of the modern developments. In other words, the concepts are brought out in a most complex and detailed way. There is mathematics involved, and one must not be afraid to read a great deal of chemical terminology for the understanding of the concepts or the sentences in this book.

At the end of each chapter, there is a bibliography as well as a series of problems and questions. Also, the book is fully illustrated, and excellently so.

There are peculiarities which disturb the reader. For example, there are many comments in parentheses, many of which are references to other books in the series. Each of the chapters seems to start out with a clear paragraph as to what is to be undertaken and to what was explained in the previous chapter, but then reading gets rough. There is no attempt to modify the vocabulary of the research worker in connection with the reader which the author may have had in mind.

However, the book is an excellent compilation of what we know today about the actual mechanics of inheritance with a great deal of emphasis on DNA and RNA. As such, it will be a fine reference book for the secondary school teacher, but will probably be far out for students. As a collegiate level book, it will make a very fine reference for the high level collegiate course, or those who are in graduate work in biology.

GENE ACTION, Philip E. Hartman and Suskid
158 pp., \$4.95, Prentice-Hall, Inc., New Jersey, 1966.

Another one of the publisher's *Foundations of Modern Genetics Series* and edited by the authors of this book. In this book, close attention is given to the activities of the gene, all welded together by the DNA-RNA structure. Chapter titles are significant: Base Pairing and Gene Action, Protein Structure, Protein Synthesis, Mutant Proteins, Complementation, Secondary Consequences of Gene Mutation, Making the Messenger, Regulation on the Ribosome, The Genetic Code, and Perspectives and Horizons. It is obvious that a full background of genetics had better be under one's belt before tackling this one.

There are excellent illustrations, chapter-end questions, references, and elaborate diagrams.

EXTRACHROMOSOMAL INHERITANCE, John L. Jinks, 177 pp., \$4.95, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1966.

This is another one of the series put out by the publisher called *Foundations of Modern Genetics Series*. By far, this is the most complex of all, and the purposes of the editors of the series was to bring the reader up-to-date in *modern genetics*. As a consequence, much of the material is quite complex, but it should be the type of reading biology teachers should have in a leisurely and studious way.

As the title indicates, this volume takes up one of the little known and little understood portions of modern genetics. While many biologists know about the Sonneborn discoveries with paramecia in this field, much of the knowledge gained in other areas has not been as widely disseminated among the general biologists. This volume attempts to summarize Sonneborn's achievements as well as the many other studies which have been made. The author delineates very clearly and deeply the argument about whether or not such extra chromosomal particles are viruses or not. It is a most interesting discussion.

Each chapter is ended with questions and references and while there is a full index, there is no full bibliography for the entire book.



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