

modern biology for today's students. And in the process the reader will learn many interesting insights and details.

THE ELEMENTS OF CYTOGENETICS, G. B. Wilson, 120 pp., \$2.25, Reinhold Book Division, New York, 1968.

This monograph, which is highly recommended, is a part of the series, *Selected Topics in Modern Biology*; it is designed for the beginning student. The author, deceased since the writing of this book, simplifies a topic that frequently confuses the beginning student of biology.

Dr. Wilson states that cytogenetics is based on the premise that genes are associated with the chromosome and that a cytogeneticist draws on the work of a cytologist as well as the cytochemist for his answers. The author delineates a complete course in genetics beginning with an analysis of the chromosome into its component parts, including interesting facts that make the reading meaningful.

Two chapters describe the mitotic cycle, providing a comprehensive review of mitosis and meiosis. The area relating to the *Chromosome Basis of Sex Determination* was somewhat weak, because it lacked material on the most recent findings in this area. Some present day court cases are basing testimony on the XYY chromosome

theory and therefore it would be well to include more in this specific area.

Chapter eight gives technical hints for the microscopic examination of chromosome structure. While these techniques can be found in detail elsewhere, this provides a handy reference for the student. The last chapter summarizes the essential bases of cytogenetic investigation which is selective in salient points. About 70 references in current literature are listed.

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THE ORIGIN OF LIFE, 2nd Ed., John Keosian, 120 pp., \$2.25, Reinhold Book Corporation, New York, 1968.

Keosian gives a clear, forceful account of a fascinating subject. In the five chapters of Part I, the author discusses the historical background and the development of contemporary thought concerning the origin of living things. The five chapters of Part II contain an account of recent experiments, which, as Keosian says, have produced more new questions than answers to old questions.

Much of the book will arouse and stimulate the student's thinking. The question of "What is living, and what is not living?" could occupy, alone, a

lengthy period of thoughtful discussion. But, as the author says: "What is important is not an exact definition of life at the borderline, but rather the recognition of the existence of increasing levels of organization of matter, and the understanding of the mechanisms which operate to bring each of these about."

For the teacher and the student of general biology, Keosian's book is one of the best publications on the origin of life.

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THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES, Charles Darwin, J. W. Burrow, Ed., 477 pp., \$1.25, Penguin Books, Baltimore, 1968.

Although this book is not new to the biologist, here is a paperback which covers all the material presented in the 1952 Encyclopedia Britannica edition except the area on "Miscellaneous Objections to the Theory of Natural Selection."

Although a paperback does not have the physical endurance equal to the demands of most library usage, it can serve as a worthwhile addition to a personal library and even a school library whose funds will not stretch to include more permanent bindings on all its books. Now that most individuals

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