

theoretical rather than historical, although the first part of the book consists of a historical exposition of biological theories on the nature of life. The essential purpose of the historical portion is to serve as a basis of discussion. From Democritus up to the nineteenth century there is an excellent discussion of such biological theories as mechanism, vitalism, cybernetics, preformation, and epigenesis.

Part two deals almost entirely with the author's opinion on the nature of life. Father Blandino is a graduate of the "Gregoriana" University, where he received his philosophical and theological training, and of the University of Rome where he took his Doctorate in Biological Sciences. He has devoted many years to the study of the various problems of theoretical biology.

The treatment of various points of view are very objective; however, because of the complexity of the topic, the book is recommended only for students who have a great amount of background in college biology.

D. W.

**HOW DID YOU THINK OF THAT?** David H. Killeffer, 153 pp., \$4.50, Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1969.

The subtitle is "An introduction to the scientific method" and this tells the objectives of the author. The method employed is to describe the research and development involved in certain industrial products. There is quite a bit made of Edisonian methods as opposed to the methodical, purposeful, and verified methodology of a scientist. The defense and criticisms of the Edisonian method is rather detailed, but seems unnecessarily long. The main part of the book uses industrial examples, chiefly chemical, to explain the methodology of science. It is part of the *Chemistry in Action* series.

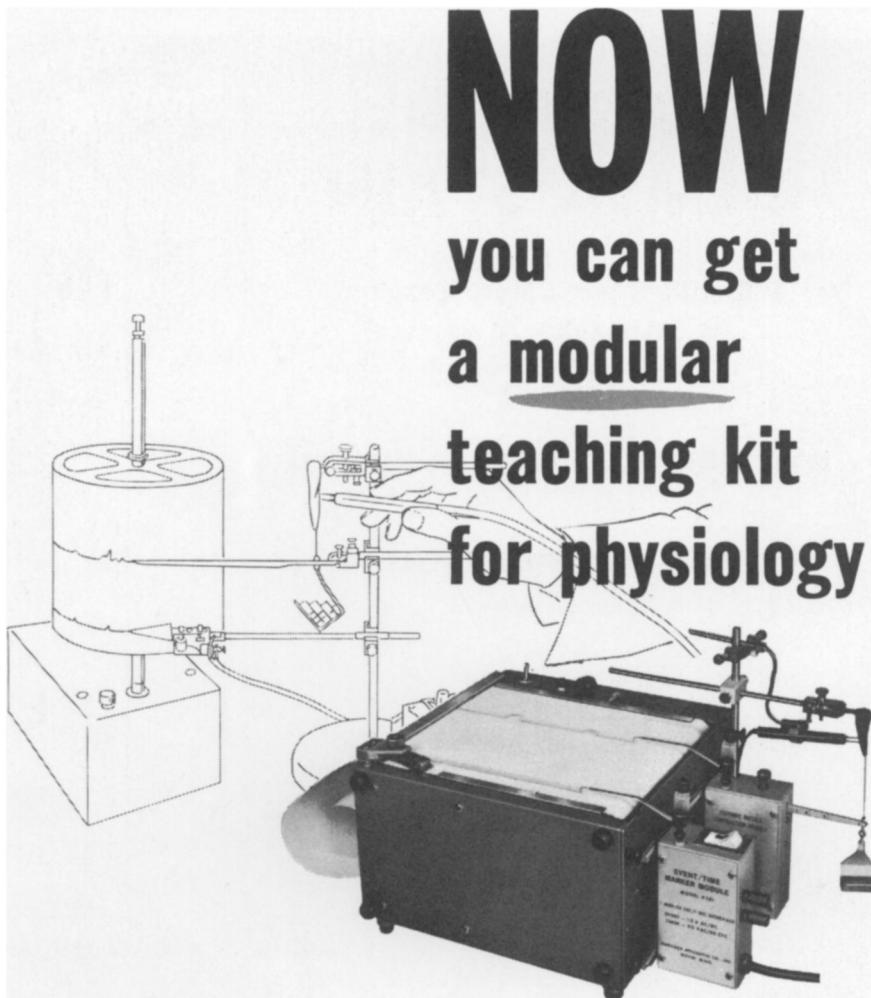
This is not a deep book but it does have some value for the junior and secondary school student. There is a bibliography and index.

**TO IMPROVE SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHING**, Hillier Krieghbaum and Hugh Rawson, 41 pp., 30¢, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 1968.

An NSF pamphlet relating the history of NSF support of institutes with emphasis on the genesis of the idea.

**BIOLOGIEONDERWIJS IN DE SOWJET UNIE DE VERENIGDE STATEN EN NEDERLAND**, A. J. Treffers, 251 pp., Wolters-Noordhoff n.v., Groningen, 1968.

This is a review, in Dutch, of biology teaching in the Soviet Union and the United States, and the implications for biology teaching in the Netherlands. H.G.



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