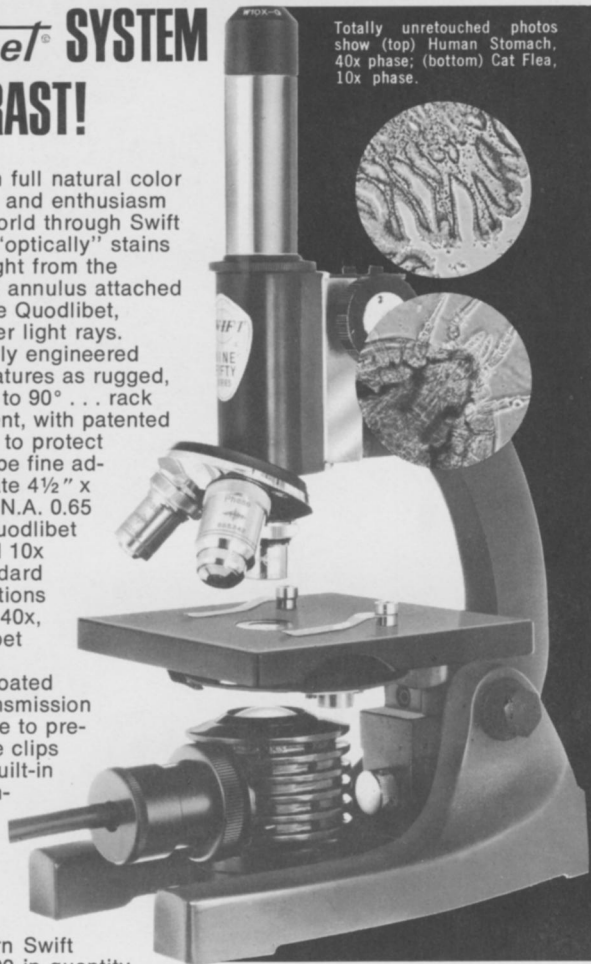


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Totally unretouched photos show (top) Human Stomach, 40x phase; (bottom) Cat Flea, 10x phase.

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animal there is a full-page picture and a few paragraphs of text, which is readable by elementary-school children. One problem with the book is that the animals are not realistically colored. Frogs, opossums, and goldfish, for example, are the same colors: shades of yellow and orange. The text, although not blatantly inaccurate, emphasizes discussion of the damage animals may do. Some young American readers may have some difficulty with the author's British spelling and usage. As a whole, this book does not measure up to many similar efforts.

Kathleen Bodine
University of Nevada
Reno

THE FIRST CHILD, by Rosemary Wells, 1970. Hawthorne Books, New York. 32 p. \$4.95

This little book, beautifully illustrated by the author, is sure to be controversial. The evolution of the "first child" from a stylized simple marine animal into a boy is time-compressed so that the entire evolution occurs during a single errand the "first child" is running for his father. Only a child's fantasy—certainly not a biologist's empiricism—could encompass the words and pictures in the story. The entire notion of organic evolution is almost subliminally presented to the young reader. The total effect is that the child

is introduced to evolution without the laborious detail he will later encounter in his education.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

THE GOOD DRUG AND THE BAD DRUG, by John S. Marr, M.D. 1970. M. Evans & Co., New York. 44 p. \$3.95.

This book, written for upper primary and intermediate children, is very timely. The reader learns the effect of drugs on the body. The "good drug" is presented as a normal antidote to illness, prescribed and administered beneficially by the physician. The "bad drug" is presented as being offered by someone when no illness exists, and its physiologic effects are graphically presented. The admonition is plainly presented: "Since both medicine and dope come in the form of pills, syrups, and injections, it is often difficult to tell them apart. Never take a drug without the directions of your doctor or your parents, because a bad drug can make a well person very sick and only a good drug can make a sick person well."

The author is a doctor in Metropolitan Hospital, in New York City, where he has daily contacts with addicts. The current extent of the drug problem makes this "must" reading for young children.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

THE CRAB FROM YESTERDAY: THE LIFE CYCLE OF A HORSESHOE CRAB, by John F. Waters. 1970. Frederick Warne & Co., New York. 33 p. \$3.95.

Children swap horseshoe crabs for four pennies each, and a man hauls them in a pickup to the dump. A small boy with brown hair finds a horseshoe crab and concludes a bargain with the man. Later the boy regrets the trade.

In the form of a story for elementary school children, the history and life cycle of a horseshoe crab are accurately and lucidly portrayed. Plentiful and colorful illustrations, which are on the whole realistic, account for much of the book's appeal. The author maintains a distance from his characters, which is unusual in a children's book: thus, the reader never learns the name of the little boy, who is referred to as "the boy" or "the boy with brown wavy hair" or the like. In a similar way, although one learns facts about the horseshoe crab, a sense of mystery continues to surround it. This sense of mystery, along with the author's simple yet beautiful description of seashore life, contributes to the pleasant realism that pervades the book.

Kathleen Bodine
University of Nevada
Reno