

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF BIOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Edited by
Arnold B. Grobman

Teachers and students of life sciences are forced to consider the social implications of biology. The important issues can not be avoided and deserve a full and balanced discussion.

Recognizing this need, the National Association of Biology Teachers invited distinguished biologists to address themselves to a variety of social issues. The result has been a volume ideally suited as a resource for class discussion and as a reference for the teacher of either life sciences or humanities.

The volume includes chapters on the social implications of . . .

Medicine

by Michael and Lois DeBakey

Behavior

by James V. McConnell

Genetics

by Bruce Wallace

Population

by Garrett Hardin

Evolution

by Claude A. Welch

Additional statements are given by Vincent Dethier, Martin Schein, Haven Kolb, David Denker, Lawrence Mann and others. This book is available now from the National Association of Biology Teachers for only \$1.95.

NABT

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ANIMAL BABIES, by Max Alfred Zoll. 1971. Hill & Wang, Inc., N.Y. 50 p. \$4.50.

This is a book that anyone from nine to 12 can understand and everyone from six to 60 can enjoy. *Animal Babies* starts with the statement, "When I was a boy, I did not have a book like this, but I made one for myself by cutting animal pictures from the newspapers and pasting them into a notebook, and for many years that was my favorite book." Zoll says this is the reason he prepared this little book. The photographs are excellent. One thing I did not enjoy about the book was that a number of the photographs were taken in zoos. In my opinion, this destroys the true beauty of nature.

Laura Lee Carter
Colorado Springs, Colo.

BIRDS IN THE STREET: THE CITY PIGEON BOOK, by Winifred and Cecil Lubell. 1971. Parents' Magazine Press, New York. 64 p. \$3.47.

This excellent book will fascinate primary-age children—especially those who live in cities. A case for the protection of pigeons is eloquently made, though their nuisance characteristics are honestly depicted. The mating and nesting habits of the adults and the growth of the squabs is told in interesting fashion. The fertility and longevity of pigeons lead to overpopulation. Several methods have been used to control pigeon population; some are humane, others not so humane. The Karlsruhe (Germany) plan, in which pigeon coops are built in the city and eggs are selectively pricked with a needle to prevent embryologic development, is presented as a practical method of keeping the pigeons in the city and at the same time limiting their number.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

DRUGS AND YOU, by Arthur Madison. 1971. Julian Messner, New York. 77 p. \$3.95 (hardback).

In the language of young people, this book "tells it like it is" in giving a history of the major drugs being used today. It shows how drugs can affect health, schooling, and career. It also tells when these drugs can be helpful and when harmful. An excellent book for grades 6-9, *Drugs and You* is a guide for students rather than a source book for parents. The author expresses himself in a concise, to-the-point way that will hold the short attention span of the young student.

Louise Haggard
Highlands High School
Ft. Thomas, Ky.

METAMORPHOSIS: THE MAGIC CHANGE, by Alvin and Virginia Silverstein. 1971. Atheneum Publishers, New York. 74 p. \$5.50 (hardback).

The Silversteins explain metamorphosis, taking as examples the butterfly, honeybee, dragonfly, frog, sea squirt, starfish, and eel. The book is not technical; it may appeal to students in grades 5 to 7. The young reader who is seeking detailed information will need to read other books, but the reader who wants a general overview of metamorphosis will find this book worthwhile. Although the book has several pages of excellent black-and-white photographs, the reader who is not familiar with the topic could easily overlook what it is he is supposed to see in many of them.

The discussion of the advantages of metamorphosis in terms of survival is particularly interesting. However, the authors completely disregard the importance of hormones in metamorphosis. In too many instances they attribute the change in form to "marvelous changes taking place inside" rather than giving a brief explanation that the changes are a result of chemical changes within the body. Presentation of data from several experiments would have strengthened the book and perhaps made the process more understandable than magical.

Jack E. Sherman
University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

ANIMALS: THE STRANGE AND EXCITING STORIES OF THEIR LIVES, by Bertel Bruun. 1971. American Heritage Press, New York. 95 p. \$4.95.

This is a brief overview of the animal kingdom, written for children. Habitat, food, and reproductive method of each animal is described, as well as its similarities to and differences from other animals. This slender string of interrelationship is evident in the order in which the animals appear in the book, and a child who starts at the beginning and reads straight through to the end will have acquired an appreciation of the increasing complexity of the phyla. The text is uncomplicated enough for children to enjoy. The illustrations, by Dorothea and Sy Barlowe, ably complement the text: there is a well-balanced profusion of black-and-white sketches and brightly colored pictures. A distinctive feature is a small box showing each animal's food in easily identified silhouette.

I highly recommend this book for elementary-school libraries.

Ruth S. von Ahlefeldt
Hyde Park School
Pueblo, Colo.

(Concluded on p. 48)