lication 1696 of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. 184 p. $5.00 (softback).

If your teaching technique includes laboratory investigations by students, or if you are called upon to help develop projects for science fairs, or if you would just like to do something different in biology class with living plants and animals, a random reading of this simplified account of the biology of plant-parasitic nematodes will suggest a great variety of significant original research that can be carried out with limited time, space, and equipment. Biologists generally are not well acquainted with soil and plant-parasitic nematodes, but a few soil samples or chopped plant samples in a homemade Baermann apparatus will reveal that the nematode is ubiquitous.

The book gives very little nematode morphology and no taxonomy. These would be unnecessary to conduct a project, as long as the student's descriptive designations, such as "nematode from clover field" or "sample #11 nematode," would suffice. Beyond that, however, the teacher must be prepared to help the student through some complex literature to discover the name and function of some body structure and the species name.

The physiology chapter does not present chemical reactions; rather, it describes the responses of nematodes to varying conditions. There is a good but brief discussion of the ecology of plant-parasitic nematodes. The chapter on histopathology, with its illustrations, would give enough information for a comparative study by a student who is following the cause of an infection.

Details of collecting, isolating, and preserving soil and plant nematodes are given; these include photographs of equipment. The procedures are not complex: a student should be able to begin collecting data quickly while enthusiasm is still high. The discussion of nematode damage and economic loss and the extensive discussion of control factors should provide the neophyte researcher with sufficient background, along with an ample number of problems to investigate.

Most of the bibliography dates from the late 1950s and the early 1960s. More recent research in nematology has added many details and new information but has not substantially altered the concepts presented in this book. I am sure that the one sentence the authors would most like to update is the one having to do with the use of chemical nematocides (p. 169): "Control need not await complete understanding." Today's environmentally concerned biologist would not accept that contention.

The lack of an index may be a disadvantage; however, the table of contents is quite detailed.

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For Young Readers

THE LIFE OF SHARKS, by Paul Budker. 1971. Columbia University Press, New York. 222 p. $12.50.

This comprehensive study of sharks should be a useful reference for the high school biology teacher. High school students interested in the anatomy of sharks will find the book a valuable source of information. Chapters on taxonomy and anatomy will prove to be challenging to high school students because of the extensive use of scientific terminology. The general reader will find the later chapters, on natural history, interesting and entertaining. Some of the chapter titles indicate the breadth and depth of the treatment: general form; anatomy; food and feeding habits; man-eaters; freshwater sharks; pilots and remoras; shark myths and legends; fisheries and the utilization of sharks.

The book is well illustrated with

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drawings of the specialized anatomy and body forms of various species of sharks. Black-and-white photographs show unusual sharks captured by man. (Some of the photographs, apparently from an earlier edition, should be replaced.) Common and Latin names of sharks are given in an appendix. There is a full listing of technical and general references.

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THE WORLD OF THE SNAKE, by Hal H. Harrison. 1971. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. 160 p. $5.95 (hardback).

This is a new member of the publisher's "Living World Books." The snake's life history unfolds through the seasons. Additional chapters are devoted to poisonous and nonpoisonous species, snake facts and fallacies, and a checklist of snakes of North America—the region covered.

The layman will find this book to be well written, well illustrated, factual, and easy to read. The chapters on snakebite treatment and on field study are noteworthy. The author adequately covers the snake's role in the ecology of North America and describes the loss this ecosystem will suffer if we continue to decimate the snake population.

This book should have its greatest value in the junior high and the high school and in the "general reading" section of the college library.

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THE SKELETON INSIDE YOU, by Philip Balestrino. 1971. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 33 p. $3.75.

Using the familiar Halloween costume skeleton as a point of departure, the author introduces the young child to simple anatomy by pointing out some facts about the very real skeleton inside him. He describes size, shape, make-up, and purpose of the 206 bones in the human body and shows how they grow, help make blood, and mend themselves when injured. The combination of simple, lively language and whimsical line drawings makes this a delightful book. Apt analogies and references to many experiences that are everyday occurrences to young children helped this book to be received enthusiastically by all the children in the first grade of our school and embarked them on a project of self-exploration. Older primary children who could read it themselves would undoubtedly savor the light touches just as exuberantly as the younger ones did. I heartedly recommend this book for use in primary health and science units as well as for the general library table.

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GRUNION: FISH OUT OF WATER, by Ann Stepp. 1971. Harvey House, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y. 48 p. $3.50.

In an age when scientists are unlocking secrets of the biologic clocks that control and trigger many aspects of human and animal behavior, and when laymen making transhemispheric airplane flights become very much aware of their own biorhythms in adjusting to local time, this book provides for young people a study of a fascinating species of fish, which comes out of water to spawn and depends for its survival on its accurate timing of the highest wave of the highest tide of the month. Deftly, the scene of a grunion run is described: a group of grunion-fishers

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