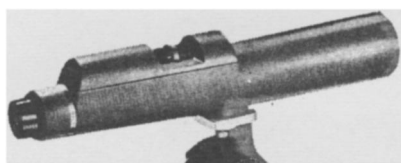


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the hyrax rivals the hippopotamus. A green earth, on pages 800 and 801, exists solely for the placement of 52 small and unclear numbers showing fossil sites.

One gets the distinct impression that different parts of the book were written by different people, who did not compare notes. On page 23, for example, are listed 23 animal phyla; but on page 771 one is introduced to a phylum Tentaculata, which is not among the 23 earlier introduced. But then, some of the 23 phyla are not dealt with in the chapter on animals; so it all balances out. The animal chapter emphasizes the frequent textual unevenness and bias. It finds space for over five inches of type on sponges but disposes of birds in less than an inch and a half.

Although the book appears to be "mod," authors need to catch up in certain matters of content. On page 228, radioactive phosphorus is still labeled P³², a designation now superseded. Race gets relatively short shrift in this volume: it would seem that a "with it" book would attempt to introduce more pictures of minority groups, even if only for cosmetic purposes.

An interesting feature of the volume is its apparent lack of authorship. There is an impressive list of "contributing consultants" in the front of the book, and an even more impressive detailing of them in eight pages in the back. However, since none of them is credited with writing a specific part of the volume, one can only assume that they were employed, as are most consultants, to read a few pages critically and to allow the use of their names. The real authorship of the volume remains a deep mystery.

The book is accompanied by a box of materials entitled "Involvement in Biology Today." Because the size and weight of the book alone are enough to cause posture distortions in those carrying it around, I had hoped the box would contain a truss in case of hernia. Instead, however, it contains a metabolism game, wherein one stops on pyruvic acid and is instructed to "shoot the dice for advice"; a packet of brine shrimp eggs; several geometric figures to cut out and assemble; and a 131-page "involvement" volume that has some of the characteristics of a laboratory manual. There is an instructor's resource package delineating performance objectives, references, and films for the various chapters. It includes a sequence of test items that indicate—contrary to the Barnum & Bailey approach used with the students—that the instructor is expected to examine on such prosaic items as the name of the longest extension from the cell body of the neuron; to ask for a description of the structure and function of meristematic cells and tissues; and to ascertain if the student recognizes the most common mutations as point mutations. The publisher thus appeals to both the interest in progressivism and relevance

on the part of the student and the desire to maintain the status quo on the part of the instructor.

This is a great big marshmallow of a book: a visual breakthrough; a book dominated by artists. Like a circus poster, it promises more than the show can deliver. The format makes the volume appear new, daring, and different, but the bulk of the text consists of truncated, traditional materials. It is a recitation of facts common to most texts. The scientific process and the inquiry approach fail to pervade the chapters. However, the sections on populations, behavior, and the human organism are contributions: the mystery author is to be commended for breakthroughs in these subjects and for his visual innovations but is to be faulted for letting too much hang out.

Failure to apply Occam's Razor and to exercise selection has created another encyclopedic text. The fate of this volume in the marketplace will be worth watching. If it is accepted, it could set a standard, of sorts, for the next several decades. Even its existence in trial form cannot but influence the design of biology books in the immediate future.

William V. Mayer
University of Colorado
Boulder

For Young Readers

OUR DIRTY AIR, by Sarah M. Elliott. 1971.
Julian Messner Publisher, New York.
64 p. \$3.95 (hardback).

This book is written for junior high school students and would also be suitable for some fifth- and sixth-graders. It describes all kinds of air pollution, together with the experiences of persons who have suffered from each kind. Good black-and-white photographs illustrate problems and solutions. A brief description of air pollution and weather explains a temperature inversion. Elliott then tells how living organisms are affected adversely by air pollution. Experiments using various pollutants on plants and animals are briefly described. The last three chapters discuss solutions to the air-pollution problem; here the reader is given hope for the future rather than a totally bleak outlook. This book would be a good addition to the junior-high-school library.

Nancy Pardee
Mitchell High School
Colorado Springs, Colo.

AISE-CE-BON, A RACCOON, by Lillian Brady. 1971. Harvey House, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, N.Y. 128 p. \$4.50.

This is the story of a mother raccoon and her litter of four. The family's activities are traced throughout a year's

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time. The foods eaten, the predators encountered, and the cunning and skill exhibited in the struggle for survival are portrayed. The story line is interesting and moves rapidly. The drawings of the animals and of the forest, by Jerome Connolly, are well done. The reading level is fourth or fifth grade.

The names given to the animals are Indian in origin—except Aise-ce-bon, which is French. There are so many animals presented in the adventures of Aise-ce-bon that the reader is confused as to whether she is being threatened by a bobcat, Be-Zheu; a skunk, Zha-gog; an owl, We-wend-jigano; or Mah-guh, a bear.

The most serious flaw is the imputation of human characteristics to the racoons. Lillian Brady attempts to tell a story of real, live racoons in a real, live forest with real, live friends (?) and enemies (?), but she achieves neither the enduring nor the endearing qualities of a first-rate nature story.

Elizabeth J. Mallon
Notre Dame College of
St. John's University
Staten Island, N.Y.

THE HUNT OF THE MASTODON, by Georgianne Ensign. 1971. Franklin Watts, Inc., New York. 88 p. \$4.95.

Do you remember your excitement, as a child, in finding a long-buried bone in a garden or a ditch? Ensign tells of the discovery of three huge teeth by two young boys in the same grandly dreaming way. Her story of the unearthing of a mastodon in Hackensack, N.J., begins with the finding of the

teeth and ends after the nearly complete skeleton, as well as numerous small-animal fossils and some human bones and artifacts, have been saved from obliteration by a highway. In the telling she also presents the scientific aspects of fossil and artifact discovery, preservation, and study. "Easy" words are consciously avoided, and such terms as vertebrate paleontology are clearly defined. The author includes a list of suggested readings. Pictures and diagrams illustrate the progress of excavation and some geologic details. The book is recommended for grade 4 and up; and even if the more scientific parts are not understood, the description of the dig itself should fire the imaginations of young readers.

Diane McWhorter
Colorado College
Colorado Springs

A LONG TIME GROWING, by Carmelo Melendez, with R. E. Simon, Jr., and Emmett Smith. Children's Press, Chicago. Hardback \$2.25 to schools, \$3.00 otherwise; softback 75¢.

This book is part of a series, "Open Door Books," written especially for teen-age members of minority groups who have reading difficulties. The reading level for the series is fifth grade. Each book tells how one member of a minority group was able to find his niche in society despite poverty, prejudice, and obstacles to his getting an education. There are 36 autobiographies in the series.

A Long Time Growing is the story of Carmelo Melendez, a Puerto Rican who

came to East Chicago, Ind., at age 10. His teachers took an interest in him: they helped him to learn English, to finish high school, and to attend courses in x-ray technology. Eventually he became an x-ray instructor and technician at South Chicago Community Hospital and a technician at St. James' Hospital.

This is a series that can be highly recommended to teachers of adult members of minority groups. The language is clear and simple. The people depicted are adults, not children. Each book contains an appendix giving career guidance information about the work engaged in by the leading character.

Elizabeth J. Mallon
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YOUR ENVIRONMENT: AIR, AIR POLLUTION, AND WEATHER, by Collins M. Henson. 1971. Interstate Press, Danville, Ill. 214 p. \$4.95.

This is a junior-high-school science textbook on the air and weather. The experiments—basic, easy to perform, and requiring a minimum of equipment—are commendable. The second half of the text consists of a more traditional, factual account of the weather. Henson adequately describes wind patterns, precipitation, cloud forms, and other phenomena. He also examines the validity or invalidity of some of the better-known "folk" weather signs.

The two paltry chapters on air pollution seem to be thrown into the middle of the study of weather in an