

Particularly attractive features of *Metabolism* are its easy style, excellent diagrams, and logical organization. The use of common "representative types" provides a means, familiar to the biologist, of introducing chemical processes. Representative substances include alanine, nitrogen, ammonia, and water molecules.

Altogether, this is a most articulate presentation of metabolism, beginning with the principles of chemical and biologic energy-relationships and extending to the intricacies of energy transfer, protein synthesis, and control mechanisms. An entire chapter is devoted to metabolic relationships in the environment.

Emphasis on the unfinished business of science—a key to the continuing success of BSCS publications—has been carefully maintained by citing currently unanswered questions. The author provides, at the end of each chapter, a generous list of sources, including readily obtained journal references—a helpful assist to those interested in accompanying the biochemist to the leading edge of today's research. The past is not forgotten—the narrative includes historic developments in biochemistry, together with biographic references—but the focus remains on the present state of the art.

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Textbooks

READINGS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE, ed. by Irving Knobloch. 3rd ed., 1973. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York. 499 p. \$5.45.

This book contains articles intended to arouse interest in biology. In addition, they provide information on a variety of biologic topics. Sections are devoted to the beginnings of biology; the structure and function of animals; the structure and function of higher plants; nutrition, health, and disease; ecology, conservation, and economic biology; exobiology; heredity; origin of life; evolution; population and birth control; and philosophy and science. The first section contains excerpts from Hippocrates, Aristotle, and Charles Darwin. Articles in later sections deal with drugs, venereal disease, cancer, organ transplantation, death, reanimation, human ecology, pesticides, space biology, human evolution, population control, famine, euthanasia, birth control, abortion, the "green revolution," interstellar migration in aid of solving the population problem, and other lively matters. In general the articles are short, interesting, and relevant. They are by well-qualified authors.

This book could be used supplementarily in high-school and college biology

courses. Many of the articles are also relevant to the social sciences.

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TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY, by Byron A. Schottelius and Dorothy D. Schottelius. 17th ed., 1973. C. V. Mosby Co., Saint Louis. 561 p. \$11.00. With laboratory manual by these authors and John D. Thomson. 3rd ed., 1973. [Same publisher.] 291 p. \$5.95 (soft-back).

This, the latest edition of the well-known "Tuttle and Schottelius," is in-

tended to fill the gap between the large, reference-type physiology textbook and the more elementary textbooks. The writing is clear, the diagrams exceptionally good, the glossary extensive. Those familiar with the previous edition will find few differences in content or organization. Supplementary readings have been added at the end of each chapter; these are up-to-date, and they range from articles in *Scientific American* to review articles in medical and scientific journals. Notable features are a separate, and excellent, chapter on the liver and its functions; several chapters on metabolism, including a thorough treatment of enzymes and

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