

some of the graphic material is obscure according to student opinion; for example, the action potential (p. 362), the pyramids of mass, energy, and numbers (after Odum; p. 608), and cell culture (after Steward; p. 493).

They use analogies frequently, often to advantage. As usual, they use the internal combustion engine (this time an airplane instead of an auto) to illustrate energetics—an analogy I have never found especially useful. I wonder if General Motors uses photosynthesis and respiration to explain engines.

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**EXPLORATIONS IN BASIC BIOLOGY**, by Stanley E. Gunstream and John S. Babel. 1973. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis. 242 p. \$5.50 (softback).

The list of objectives and the fine illustrations of organisms and techniques make this an attractive and stimulating manual for college introductory-biology and secondary-school advanced-biology programs. The instructions are to the point, and very good background is provided on the topics being investigated. The printing is excellent, and important terms are in boldface type.

The manual leads the student through procedures and techniques but leaves to

the student the task of interpreting his observations and reporting his data on the laboratory report form at the end of each exercise. Good suggestions on the report forms bring out basic concepts. The manual covers a cross-section of biologic principles and goes into enough detail to keep the beginning student interested.

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**CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY**, by Mary E. Clark. 1973. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 708 p. \$11.50.

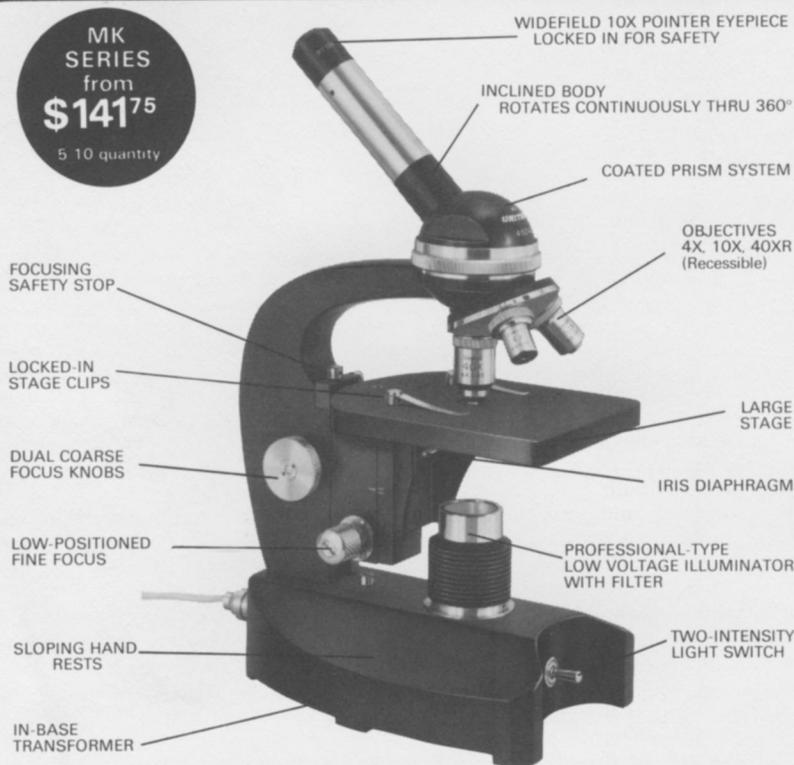
More than a score of college general-biology textbooks have been published in the last two years; so each additional one is likely to be viewed as just another attempt by a publisher to be competitive. *Contemporary Biology*, however, is a worthwhile addition to the list. In the manner of the BSCS books, it has a unifying theme—ecology, in this case—and innovative features. Of the 23 main chapters, 15 have companion chapters that apply the principles to contemporary problems. For example, chapter 8, on photosynthesis, is accompanied by chapter 8a, "Man's Impact on Global Photosynthesis," which deals with such topics as overgrazing, pesticides, urbanization, air pollution, and the effects of DDT on phytoplankton. Generally, the writing

is free-flowing and clear, but occasionally the author attempts to condense too much information into a single sentence; then the writing becomes choppy and over-generalized. The glossary contains clear, although sometimes biased, definitions. The index is comprehensive.

The charts, graphs, and pictures tend to complement and supplement the text. There are some oversized space-fillers and, in one instance, a half-page repeat of a drawing of a *Chlamydomonas*; generally, though, the illustrations are well chosen. There are no color plates, but the use of blue accents on black-and-white is effective and appealing. The five-kingdom classification of organisms given in the appendix is different from that of the text—a bothersome inconsistency.

*Contemporary Biology* should be added to the reading shelf of advanced classes in high school and beginning classes in college; and many programs would profit from using it as the textbook in one-semester or two-quarter courses. Although, as the author says, it is not an "easy" book, it does confine itself to the basic technical language. It is not a comprehensive general-biology textbook: the absence of elaboration on historical accounts, genetics, bioenergetics, and molecular biology is evident. It is intended for the nonscience major, but the principles—

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