

selected with care and good judgment, then organized to show sequential magnifications of the same field from light microscopy to low-magnification electron microscopy as well as medium- and high-magnification electron microscopy. This pleasing arrangement of large, clean, well-selected photos in immediate juxtaposition with the captions and the text is certain to satisfy the student who desires both a text and an atlas.

There are good histology textbooks and there are good histology atlases; each type of publication is well-known and easy to find. However, this new book by Rhodin is a singular accomplishment, succeeding in combining pictorial and verbal descriptions of animal and human tissues. There are no line drawings, schematic diagrams, or color plates, but the high quality of the photographs makes these unnecessary and fosters consistency throughout.

There is no doubt that every secondary-school library will want this book as a reference. For the high-school instructor and his students, this can become an indispensable tool for clarifying and elaborating microscopic structure. At least some of the large and lucid photographic plates can find a place in biology and other science courses at any level of sophistication. Remember, every other page is filled with large, lucid photographs; consequently, one gets a very attractive and serviceable format for what is a moderate price these days.

*Raymond E. Henzlik*  
Ball State University  
Muncie, Ind.

**INTRODUCTION TO MOLECULAR EMBRYOLOGY**, by Jean Brachet. 1974. Springer-Verlag, New York. 172 p. \$5.90 (softback).

In this book, the author poses the two main questions of embryology: how can the fertilized egg, with DNA from male and female parent, give rise to all the organs of the adult; and how can a limited number of cells, in a given time and place, differentiate into specialized tissues and organs? Reviewing the classical work of first the descriptive and then the chemical embryologists, Brachet discusses the investigations of cell biologists, geneticists, and molecular embryologists that have contributed to our present state of knowledge in this intriguing and important area of research. Further, he points directions in which research of the future may proceed.

Brachet is himself perhaps the foremost authority in this field, and his expertise is apparent throughout the volume. The material is beautifully organized and clearly presented. In reviewing the work of various investigators, he fails however to give exact re-

ferences; this becomes a frustration for the person who would like to find the original papers. He includes a bibliography at the end of each chapter, but these are not complete.

The advanced undergraduate or beginning graduate student should find this book most useful. It could be used as a supplement in a traditional course in embryology or as background for a research project.

*Margaret L. Watson*  
Simpson College  
Indianola, Iowa

**THE SHELL MAKERS: INTRODUCING MOLLUSKS**, by G. Alan Solem. 1974. John Wiley & Sons, New York. 289 p. \$9.95.

The serious shell collector who has always wanted to know what manner of creature produced a shell will welcome the publication of this book. It is not about shells, nor is it a guide to collecting; it is about the shell makers. The author deals with the second largest group of animals, the mollusks, describing each kind as a living functional unit that has evolved and faced many problems in its developmental history. Emphasis is placed on anatomical development in relationship to ecology.

The three introductory chapters, "Understanding Variety," "The Molluscan Patterns," and "From Life's Start to Shells" include the importance of mollusks to man, their diversity, scientific literature concerning mollusks, major groups, and origins. The remaining chapters deal with the habits, anatomy, and evolution of the various molluscan groups. The author includes an interesting discussion on endangered molluscan species—with man and his reservoir-building activities the main villain. The final chapters present an interesting block of topics with particular emphasis on the ecology and habits of land mollusks.

Format, pictures, diagrams, and color photos are well done and make this a valuable book for amateur shell collectors and for teachers who require anecdotal information about mollusks.

*David E. Kidd*  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque

**INSECTS IN FLIGHT**, by Werner Nachtigall. 1974. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 158 p. \$12.95. Translated from German by H. Oldroyd, R. Abbott, and M. Biederman-Thorson.

This is neither a textbook nor a laboratory manual. The author says it is "a book of popular science in the boundary between biology and physics." It deals with the biophysics of

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