

and Separation of the Sexes," or "Seduction and Rape, or, Female Choice and Male Sequestering." The book requires the conscientious concentration of the concerned reader.

Only the most widely read and thoroughly informed biologists will not be impressed by the breadth of Ghiselin's insight and the diversity of the literature cited to support a position or to illustrate a point. Even the most superficial reader cannot help but be impressed by the author's careful effort to marshal evidence to support conclusions. Ghiselin would not appear to be guilty of the ad hoc theorizing that he deplores in the thinking and writing of many students of evolution.

The biology teacher will be impressed with Ghiselin's deft use of analogy to clarify abstract points and by his willingness to examine alternative hypotheses that seemingly explain certain observations. Although the book will not be useful to the high school biology student, it may well be found to be helpful to the teacher who wishes to delve deeply into the evolution of sexual reproduction.

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Genetics

THE NEW GENETICS, by Margaret O. Hyde. 1974. Franklin Watts, New York. 144 p. \$6.95 hardback.

"From peas to people, from simple laws of heredity to probing the secrets of cells," Hyde's short but concise book substantiates well the fact that geneticists are making exciting discoveries. These discoveries will be of major interest and concern to all. The moral and legal implications are sure to have such an impact that theologians, physicians, and jurists will be spinning and sputtering.

As the science of genetics progresses, young people need to be more informed about all of the possibilities that this special science offers. Hyde's book helps in the interpretation of some of these difficult concepts. For example, "cloning," a process of creating one human being identical to another, is discussed in such a way that the layman and the young reader can understand.

Perhaps the most important function of the book is to dispel much of the sensational publicity that has been generated by genetic engineering. Written for 9th-grade level and above, this book should prove helpful as supplementary reading in any general biology course. Suggestions for further reading, some organizations with special interests in the new genetics, and an index are included.

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Health

HUMAN SEXUALITY: SENSE AND NONSENSE, by Herant Katchadourian. 1974. W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco. 106 p. \$2.95 softback, \$5.95 hardback.

Katchadourian's sex, even in abridged form, is better than most. This book is a distilled version of his comprehensive textbook, *Fundamentals of Human Sexuality* and is one of a series, the Portable Stanford.

Sprinklings of erotic art intermingle with medical drawings. The text is similarly diversified. Divided into three main chapters, the Physical Basis of Sex, Sexual Behavior, and Sex and Society, this book is a welcomed supplement in the field, the school, and the home as well.

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HEALTH, ed. by Jean Mayer. 1974. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York. 543 p, \$8.95 (softback).

Nineteen specialists from Harvard University have contributed to this book. Obviously, the accuracy of its scientific contents can seldom be disputed. It is designed for an undergraduate course in health and possibly could be used as a resource for a second biology course at the secondary level. It is subdivided into four parts: human biology, disease, health care delivery, and human dilemmas such as population growth and pollution. Generally, it is a valuable work and includes some minor benefits such as a wide margin for notes and periodic sidelights to provide background or additional materials.

Having thus related the major assets of this somewhat unusual and comprehensive book, I must outline my reasons for recommending against its use.

Chapters 1 and 2 ("The Human Body" and "The Cycle of Life") present too much introductory material too rapidly. One moves from the cell to a study of body systems in a short time, and with a massive number of terms, many of them unexplained (depolarization, replication, and so on). Chapters 13 and 14 ("Mental Illness" and "Drugs"), written by the same author, are aimed at two extremely crucial health issues yet devote too little space to them. Indeed, a general objection to most of the book is its attempt to present too much material, merely for the sake of completeness; and in so doing several major areas are given inappropriate coverage.

The illustrations of the book leave much to be desired. Seemingly, many have been included only as monotony-breakers. A lady's hand holding an alcoholic beverage; a section of brick wall

showing six windows; a crowd of people; a stout lady reading a book; a pond; four people wading at the sea shore. The inclusion of other illustrations is questionable; incision of the vulva to assist birth, showing the actual cutting; 19 babies in incubators in a section on birth control.

In presenting some social dilemmas, there are statements which should be scrutinized carefully by anyone planning to adopt this book. (i) "Although good sex grows out of a good relationship, that is not to say that you can't enjoy sex with someone you only recently met. You can, and those who say you can't are still under the influence of . . . Victorian myths . . ." (ii) "Sexual activity is a . . . pleasurable form of human recreation." (iii) "[Masturbation] . . . may indeed be of some value psychologically in helping one to learn about his or her own likes and dislikes in sexual stimulation." (iv) ". . . people throughout this country are still being imprisoned for violations of the sex laws, many of which are cruel, vindictive, and archaic. These laws express the attitude of sex as sin which we have inherited as part of our Judeo-Christian culture." (v) [There is no] tendency for most users [of marijuana], as has been charged, to go on to hard drugs." (vi) "What method of contraception would you suggest for . . . a high school student hitchhiking to a rock festival?"

If evolution can cause as much controversy as it has, one must wonder how many telephone calls would be forthcoming if this book is used with no comment on the above statements.

Finally, too many of the "selected readings" following chapters are either biased, outdated, or inferior. This is especially true of chapters 4, 17, 19, and 22.

In a word, it is unfortunate that the valuable sections of this book, such as the chapters on human genetics and on epidemiology, are overshadowed by the encyclopedic, biased, unscientific, or somewhat outdated nature of other sections.

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THE STUDENT BIOLOGIST EXPLORES DRUG ABUSE, by Gabrielle I. Edwards. 1975. Richards Rosen Press, Inc., New York. 108 p. \$4.80 hardback.

The opening chapter distinguishes between medicine and drugs, illegal and legal drugs, while the remaining discuss hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, heroin, cocaine, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco. Within each of the major headings is included some mention of almost any conceivable potentially dangerous substance. For example, the chapter on hallucinogens is concerned mainly with marijuana, but does include a brief table on mescaline, DMT, psilocybin, cocaine, and morning