

Despite the unfortunate aspects of the book, the completeness of detail for establishing salt water aquaria, the information on coral keeping, and the illustrations would make it a worthwhile acquisition for junior or senior high school libraries.

Dorothy D. Daughtrey
John Battle High School
Bristol, Va.

KANGAROOS, OPOSSUMS, AND OTHER MARSUPIALS, by Marie M. Jenkins. 1975. Holiday House (18 East 53rd St., New York 10022). 160 p. \$6.95 hardback.

Although, the title may lead a potential reader to expect a superficial work of very limited scope, this book is a veritable gold mine of information not only about marsupials but other topics (geological processes, zoogeographic dispersal mechanisms, continental drift, and so on) as they bear upon the characteristics, phylogeny, distribution, and natural history of the pouched mammals.

Jenkins, an established scientist in her own right, has put together a beautifully written work containing a great deal of information in a small volume. Augmenting her text are numerous high quality drawings by Matthew Kalmenoff, retired biological illustrator formerly with the American Museum of Natural History. The author wisely sought the technical advice and criticism of respected Australian and American mammalogists (and other biological specialists), thus insuring the accuracy and up-to-dateness of her presentation.

Although its Library of Congress classification is "juvenile literature," I feel the book would be a welcome addition to the bookshelf of any vertebrate zoologist. It can be read easily and profitably by high school students and deserves a place in secondary school and college libraries. For the biology teacher (at any level) it is a useful and handy teaching reference because it draws important information from many widely scattered sources.

The author sprinkles etymologies liberally through the text to make for highly interesting and informative reading. The book is more than just a collection of facts. Many investigators (past and current) of marsupial biology are mentioned along with their contributions, and there is a wealth of elegantly presented historical zooge-

graphy. The treatment of continental drift deserves high praise. I found the short anecdotal accounts (for example, Cuvier's classroom presentation of Europe's first marsupial fossil find, and the British Museum's attempt to determine if the first known duckbill platypus specimen was a hoax) to be not only novel but highly entertaining to read.

In essence, the book contains something for almost everyone interested in marsupials or the Australian fauna. The volume is sturdily bound, has a simple but pleasing format, and is modestly priced.

My only serious criticism is that the index does not contain the scientific names of the many species covered. Because the book will be used as a reference by many, this omission will prove vexing.

Crawford G. Jackson, Jr.
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego, Calif.

For Young Readers

A CLOSER LOOK AT DOGS, by Valerie Pitt and David Cook. 1975. Franklin Watts, Inc. (730 Fifth Ave., New York 10019). 30 p. \$4.90.

The authors seek to create an understanding of the dog by examining the selective forces that have physically and behaviorally molded the wolf. A student studying wolves would find this book helpful but may overlook it because of the title. Illustrations that accompany the text are in color, excellently done and very well explained. The result is a very good introduction to understanding the dog, even though most of the book is about the wolf. The behavior of the pack is revealed by following wolf pups through to adulthood. Also discussed are the characteristics of wolves that led to their eventual domestication and change through selective breeding.

The book was rated eighth grade level by use of the Fry Readability Formula. The publisher recommends it for grades four and up. I found the book to have broad appeal among upper elementary as well as high school students and recommend it for school libraries.

H. Dean Jernigan
Shawnee Mission South High School
Shawnee Mission, Kans.

Audiovisuals

BIO-STEREO: BIOLOGY IN THREE DIMENSIONS. 1975. Biological Sciences Curriculum Study. (Distributed by Hubbard Scientific Co., P.O. Box 105, Northbrook, Ill. 60062.) Boxed set of 44 stereo cards on 8 topics, 3 inquiry booklets, teacher's guide, and 4 pairs of stereo glasses. Purchase \$75.

From old-fashioned stereoscope to modern "Viewmaster," stereoscopy has provided fun for several generations of Americans; but its use in education has been limited. BSCS developers have combined stereoscopy with scanning electron photomicrography, added some good artwork—regular and 3-D, and pedagogically solid text to come up with a package that appears to have the potential of being a real interest and enthusiasm generator in the biology classroom.

The introductory set of cards provides instructions on the use of the stereo glasses, how to achieve naked-eye stereopsis (difficult), making "homemade" stereo pictures (easy and it works), and clear instructions to students on use of all other program elements. The card sets with stereo scanning electron photomicrographs feature protozoans, external anatomy of insects, basic vegetative anatomy, morphology of vascular plants, and some miscellaneous items. Several stereopairs, such as those of ciliates, a single stomata of a cucumber leaf, and the highly magnified view of a fly's eye are exceptionally good. Most of the rest are good, and only a few would have been better left out, such as one of a block of redwood xylem which is dark and poor in detail on radial and tangential faces.

One card set on interpretation of data should be especially valuable to students. It discusses tabular and graphical data, converting tabular data to graph form, and construction of cardboard, three-dimensional graphs. The other card sets cover human fetal development, basic embryology, and comparative embryology of *Amphioxus*, frog, and chicken. The latter two sets are coordinated with the inquiry booklet, *Life's Beginnings*.

Another booklet in the package presents a collection of molecular models