

Gordon states in his preface and introduction "The book might well be called a textbook of comparative ecological physiology. . . . The primary orientation of this book is ecological, with emphasis on the organ, organ-system, and whole animal levels."

This volume is arranged into thirteen chapters which include: (1) Introduction, (2) Nutrition (ecologically oriented), (3) Energy Metabolism, (4) Movement: The Physiology of Muscle, (5) Respiration, (6) Circulation, (7) Water and Solute Metabolism, (8) Body Temperature and Energy Metabolism, (9) Information Processing in Sensory and Nervous Systems, (10) Sensory Physiology, (11) Use of Information: Central Coordination, (12) Chemical Correlation and Control and (13) Reproduction.

The text is attractively printed and illustrated and each chapter concludes with a useful list of references for additional readings.

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### Related Fields

McGRAW-HILL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION.

by Daniel N. Lapedes, Editor in Chief. 1977. McGraw-Hill Book Company, (1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York 10020). 732 p. \$24.50.

This large compendium of articles by various experts in the fields of botany, biochemistry, animal sciences, physiology, and nutrition, among others, would be a useful reference source for high school and college libraries. A number of the items were drawn from the 4th edition of the *Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* by the same publisher.

The alphabetical listing of topics is preceded by five articles that present an overview of the world food problems: food supply and demand world-wide, affect of climate on crops, energy relations in the food system (including production, processing, and distribution), food and the oceans, and the Green Revolution.

The material in the main body of the book seems inclusive and is well cross-referenced. An index is included in the back of the volume to facilitate its use. Photographs and drawings are pertinent and informative rather than decorative. Many articles include helpful tables, diagrams, and flow charts. It is written for advanced level high school students and college students. Structural formulas of important food chemicals are given dia-

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grammatically, as well as reactions, properties, and nutritional significance. Industrial production is discussed where applicable. Plant and animal physiology and pathology are considered in their relationship to food production. Practical applications are emphasized, but the theory and basic research information has not been slighted.

As an example of the kind of material covered, the section on soil includes such subheadings as: origin, classification, horizons, surveys, nutrient element losses, physical properties (texture, organic matter, structure, density, pore space, etc.), irrigation, conservation, erosion, chemistry, and microbial balance. This single section is 40 pages long and includes many maps, diagrams, and tables which amplify the text.

The list of contributors is large and varied, from university faculties here and abroad, government agencies, and industry. The appendix contains a chart of food composition—minerals, vitamins, calories—for foods ranging from almonds and angel food cake to whole wheat bread and yeast.

This is a timely and useful volume that has gathered in one reference book the scientific aspects of food production, distribution, and nutrition. It ignores, as it should, the more popular food fads and

diets. The seemingly high price is really quite a bargain for the quantity and quality of the information contained.

Charlotte Glauser  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

STATISTICS: A BIOMEDICAL INTRODUCTION

by Byron William Brown, Jr., and Myles Hollander. 1977. John Wiley and Sons (605 Third Avenue, New York 10016). 456 p. Price not given.

As is true of a number of books in this field particularly, *Statistics: A Biomedical Introduction* has its good and bad points. The good probably outweigh the bad. It sets forth in a reasonable clear and quite readable manner the basics of the subject and deals with a good assortment of the pertinent parametric and some nonparametric techniques.

Several features combine to raise the book above the level of the average. Perhaps most novel is an extensive glossary containing not only definitions, but also applicable formulae, abbreviations and a key to symbols used. A sufficient number of problems—some with back-of-the-book answers—are provided, among them some calling for discussion of principles rather than numerical solutions. There are well-placed summaries and an adequate set of tables. The book emphasizes experimental design and the ethics of clinical trials more than is usually the case. The idea of independence is, interestingly, developed from the viewpoint of conditional probability.

The examples used are mostly of an elementary but real, medical sort with only an occasional one from the area of basic biology. The source and nature of the data in the examples is quite carefully explained and the validity of the conclusions is not always allowed to depend merely on the numerical results of the particular technique used, a most commendable feature.

A few items should be mentioned on the negative side. In several instances, rather important material is relegated to the interspersed "Comments" sections rather than being included in the pertinent places of the main text. There is what appears to me as a rapid change in the information density and use of symbolism beginning on page 90: up to this point, the subject is developed slowly, very clearly, and with a reasonable minimum of symbolic expressions; even a mediocre student should have little trouble. Then the sledge hammer descends.

In all, this text should be seriously considered for use in introductory courses for students in the health sciences.

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