

range from poor to adequate, and students would probably require supplementary photographs and guide books to complete the work satisfactorily.

Problems in Biology could be used successfully in an introductory course for good students. However, it does not seem to offer many features that cannot be found in the lab manuals currently in use.

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BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES WITH HUMAN PERSPECTIVES

by Gideon E. Nelson. 1980. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (One Wiley Drive, Somerset, New Jersey 08873). 429 p. \$16.95.

Nelson states in his introduction that this textbook is designed for a semester course in biology for the freshman, non-major. With this in mind, I found it easy to review the book. In short, it is an excellent textbook. Rather than belabor the point, I will briefly discuss a few of the many features of this book that make it so good. First, the author approaches the topic of introductory biology with an emphasis on human beings. His reasoning: this makes a one-term biology course much more useful and interesting. He

includes extra material on nutrition, also because of its value to general students.

A second feature I find very appealing is Nelson's use of various art reproductions that face each chapter title page. This is effective because it ties other disciplines to biology and *vice versa*.

Nelson's use of photographic reproductions is a third outstanding point. The book contains many superb photographs that correlate well with the chapter text. I am especially impressed with the abundance of electron photomicrographs he uses. In addition, many excellent drawings appear throughout the book.

As with any textbook, this book does have some shortcomings. The only color in the book is on the cover, which, by the way, is very attractive. Color plates scattered throughout would have been more effective, especially with the chapters dealing with ecology. Color plates were probably not used in an effort to hold down the price of the book.

A second "flaw" is the omission of material on plant or animal morphology or taxonomy. Because of the intended use of this book as set forth in the introduction, this cannot actually be considered a shortcoming. The fact is apparent, though, that if a general student desires any further biology beyond the scope of this book (one semester),

s/he will have to purchase an additional textbook.

Nelson has an excellent textbook and one that I expect to see widely used on college campuses in the near future. This book is clearly written and illustrated, relatively inexpensive, and very accurate and up to date. It will be a fine textbook for an introductory biology course.

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Related Fields

THE CURVES OF LIFE

by Theodore A. Cook. Republication, 1979. Dover Publications (180 Varick Street, New York 10014). 474 p. \$5.95.

This is a book about natural spirals and how the spiral form has been appropriated by humans. It was written for natural history reading and is very useful to anyone interested in nature's wonders. Technically, it is an excellent book.

The writing style is typical of the period; the book was originally published in 1914. Sentences are long and complex, with many self quotes and tedious references to more or less related material. It is difficult reading if the reader

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