

Alfred Russel Wallace is an important figure in the history of biological science. He deserves more recognition for his contributions. A good, sympathetic but objective biography for the general reader is needed, but I cannot recommend Brackman's book to fill this need.

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## Genetics

### FROM DNA TO PROTEIN: THE TRANSFER OF GENETIC INFORMATION

by Maria Szekely. 1980. Halsted Press (603 Third Avenue, New York 10016). 284 p. \$35.95.

This book will be useful for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, teachers, and others who have a good background in cell biology or biochemistry. It lives up to its title in presenting a current view of this interesting and important field. The introduction provides a clear, brief statement of what is now the classical view of the DNA-to-protein aspects of molecular biology: the DNA double helix; the messenger; the Central Dogma; the code; and translation. Subsequent chapters usually have an introductory section that eases one into the material. This chapter is followed by a carefully documented updating of information and concepts.

The titles of the three parts—"The Genetic Material," "The Transcript," and "The Synthesis of Proteins,"—provide a general indication of the coverage. Topics include gene structure and organization, DNA structure and

replication, transcription, determinations of DNA sequences, the nature of m-RNA, the ribosome, t-RNA and decoding, and translation.

The author presents a quite complex and rapidly developing field in a lucid form, augmented by clear and informative illustrations. The references, some as recent as 1979, are helpful.

The book is well printed and attractively arranged. There are very few typographic errors. (The first two lines of p. 26 are the most confusing as they duplicate part of the previous sentence.)

I highly recommend this book for those who have adequate backgrounds. For others, it will be quite difficult.

John A. Freeman  
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## General Biology

### MOLECULES TO LIVING CELLS: READINGS FROM SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

1980. W.H. Freeman and Company (660 Market Street, San Francisco, 94104). 340 p. \$19.95 hardback, \$9.25 softback.

This compilation of 26 articles from *Scientific American* provides an excellent coverage of recent advances in our understanding of molecular biology and provides the reader with a historical perspective of the discovery of these ideas. Most of the articles are also available as separate offprints from the publisher.

The volume is organized into five sections, each introduced with background information and the rationale for the selection of those articles. Section I

develops the origin of the biomolecules and properties of cells. This leads to a section on protein structure and the regulation of life processes by enzymes. The nature of viruses and their assembly are included. Section III describes membrane structure and its importance within mitochondria and chloroplasts in respiration and photosynthesis. Both of the last two sections focus on nucleic acid and molecular genetics. They provide current models for protein synthesis and gene expression. Topics such as gene mutation induced by carcinogens, alterations in DNA following viral infection, and the mechanism of genetic engineering are included.

*Molecules to Living Cells* provides enrichment material for advanced secondary students or supplements college textbooks. The articles vary in their level of difficulty. Biology teachers who have not recently had a course in biochemistry will benefit from this collection of articles, and they will be better able to incorporate new information into their present curriculum.

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## Books Received

THE OSTOMY BOOK: LIVING COMFORTABLY WITH COLOSTOMIES, ILEOSTOMIES, AND UROSTOMIES, by Barbara Dorr Mullen and Kerry Anne McGinn. 1980. Bull Publishing Company, Palo Alto, California. 236 p. \$7.95.

WILDLIFE HABITATS IN MANAGED FORESTS, by J.W. Thomas, 1979. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 512 p. Price not given.

SOURCE BOOK OF PROJECTS SCIENCE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH, Fiscal Year 1979 With References to Earlier Years, by National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 155 p. Price not given.

GRADUATES OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCIENCES: AN ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY/DEMAND RELATIONSHIPS, Volume I, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veterinary Medicine, by Kyle Jane Coulter and Marge Stanton. 1980. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 194 p. Price not given.



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