

THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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This quarterly periodical is designed "for the research-oriented professionals in the biological sciences who wishes to keep abreast of current literature." *Biology 83* is the first of a series to be published every year. It cites without abstracts the research papers from 200-250 periodicals indexed by subject and taxonomic hierarchy.

Most biology teachers would find *Biology Digest* more useful because of the abstracts it provides. Serious researchers probably would make more use of *Science Citation Index* or *Biological Abstracts*, either in printed form or on line through Dialogue.

The chief merit of this publication is the low price compared to more comprehensive indices and the easy access to the citations. Most research-oriented biologists would find this publication not comprehensive enough for their purposes.

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DICTIONARY OF LIFE SCIENCES

by E.A. Martin, (Ed.). 2nd ed., 1983. Pica Press (381 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016). 396 p. Price not given.

This review is a joint effort. Because I felt that student input would be of great value, I asked several students in the bioethics class for their views.

Generally they liked it. Their comments: "definitions clear and thorough," "cross-references abundant" and "synonyms easily identified." But, they stated, and I agree, that

more illustrations are needed, e.g. *inferior* and *superior* flowers, inner ear, primitive streak. Some technical terms we think are incomplete, e.g. "dialysis definition never mentions the kidney or why it is done."

While this is not a medical dictionary, some medical terms are defined, e.g. electrocardiogram and electroencephalogram. We wonder why bioethics, biomedical ethics and environmental ethics are not listed. The coverage of genetic engineering is extensive; even transposon is defined.

Our overall opinion is that this dictionary would be very useful for students of the biological sciences; there were very few biological terms I thought of that I could not find.

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MICROBIOLOGY

ESSENTIAL CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTORY TEXT

by E. Mary Cooke and George L. Gibson. 1st printing, 1983. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (One Wiley Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873). 276 p. \$15.95 softback.

Hurrah to the authors of this grand little book. Often it has been said that great things come in small packages. This textbook is a prime example. Cooke and Gibson saw a need by medical students for an easy-to-use reference book on clinical microbiology techniques. In less than 300 pages of a well-bound paperback, they met this need and more.

The book begins with a very general, basic introduction to microbiology, then progresses to clinical symptomology, causative agent de-

scription, prophylaxis and treatment of various microbial diseases. Without getting bogged down in clinical trivia, the book gives substantial detail which is more than adequate for the medical student with limited microbiological background. However, this book has uses far beyond that of the medical student. Any teacher of life sciences at the high school and college level will find the book an invaluable asset in his/her reference library.

The book is extremely well written, with a large number of high quality black and white illustrations. Of particular value is a chart summarizing clinical characteristics of major microorganisms of medical interest. One weakness of the book is its lack of a glossary. Especially since this is listed as an introductory text, a glossary of terms would seem to be of utmost importance.

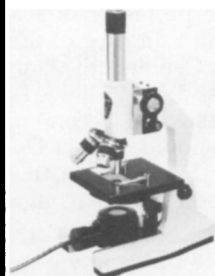
Although there may be other "pocket-reference" books on the market in clinical microbiology, this book is, without a doubt, a superior example.

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MICROBIOLOGY FOR THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

by Adrian N.C. Delaat. 3rd ed., 1984. Lea & Febiger (600 South Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106). 421 p. \$24.50 softback.

The purpose of this textbook is to present the practical and elementary theoretic aspects of medical microbiology to undergraduate college students and vocational school students planning to enter professions such as



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medical technology and dental hygiene. Unlike many medical microbiology textbooks that contain much information about disease syndromes and their management, this book is directed mainly at technical aspects of microbiology. Methods and materials for working with bacteria and viruses are discussed, and also protozoa and microscopic fungi of medical importance. Consideration is given at a basic level to the structure and function of microorganisms, so that the person with technical competence will also have enough knowledge to better understand what they are doing and to make their work more meaningful to them.

There are several pieces of misinformation in the book. For example, tissue and organ rejection after transplantation is not an autoimmune disease. In autoimmune diseases the immune system of an individual is directed against self-components of the body. In transplantation, the transplanted tissues and organs are recognized as being non-self or foreign.

The information in the book is well organized, and is written in a lucid and highly readable style. There are diagrams, drawings and tables of data to assist the reader in understanding the topics presented.

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NEUROBIOLOGY

A PRIMER OF PSYCHOBIOLOGY: BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR

by Timothy J. Teylor. 2nd ed., 1984. W.H. Freeman (41 Madison Ave., NY 10010). 192 p. \$15.95, \$8.95 soft-back.

This "primer" is just that, growing out of the author's experience teaching an introductory psychobiology course to nonbiology majors. The style is conversational, which at once puts the scientist on guard and the nonscientist at ease! The treatment of biological subject matter is sound, however, and the scope of the book is more extensive than its size would lead you to expect. The material is adequately and clearly illustrated in 51 uncluttered illustrations.

The role of "behavior" in "life" and the biological bases of behavior occupy the first 60 percent of the text with very straight-forward considerations of innate and learned behavior, the

nature of movement as a response, structure and function of neurons and an overview of the brain with its receiving and dispensing mechanisms. The concluding section of the book deals with environmental influences and nervous system handling of external input. The emphasis is on relevance and clarity but scientific terminology in current usage is included and explained.

Not a textbook itself, the primer would be a good supplement for introductory courses in biology or psychology.

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PARASITOLOGY

MODERN PARASITOLOGY: A TEXT-BOOK OF PARASITOLOGY

ed. by F.E.G. Cox. 1982. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Inc. (52 Beacon St., Boston 02108). 358 p. \$25.00 softback.

This is not the standard textbook of parasitology that one would expect from its title, although it does contain much of the material that one would expect to find in such a book. It does contain, however, selected topics that are often omitted from standard textbooks. For instance, there are chapters on physiological and biochemical processes that are uniquely operative in parasitic organisms and on important metabolic and nutritional dependencies that exist between parasites and their hosts and/or intracellular life style. In addition, much emphasis is placed on various medical aspects of parasitic diseases, namely: immunology; epidemiology, and possible mechanisms of disease control. Basic principles of these topics are introduced to the reader before specific applications and concepts are presented.

Of special note is the discussion of the concept of merely controlling realistic levels of parasitic diseases that are tolerable rather than attempting total and unrealistic eradication. Two short chapters on chemotherapy and suggested further readings conclude the book.

The book will be of interest primarily to teachers, advanced college level biology students and parasitologists. It is well written, interesting to read, and it presents significant up-to-date information about each of the subjects covered. In summary, this book provides an excellent review of

some of the most recent developments in parasitology.

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ZOOLOGY

SEALS OF THE WORLD

by Judith E. King. 2nd ed. 1983. British Museum (Natural History) Comstock Publishing Associates, div. of Cornell University Press (124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, NY 14850). 240 p. \$24.50 hardback.

As recently as July 1983 *Natural History* referred to King's 1964 edition as a classic. This edition has been largely rewritten and updated to provide a current comprehensive and accurate summary of information about pinnipeds. The pinnipeds include five genera of sea lions, two of fur seals, ten of "true" seals, and the walrus. Seals inhabit all the oceans. There have been spectacular advances in seal physiology and fossil history.

King took an Honours Degree in Zoology at University College, London, and headed the seals section of the British Museum. She now does research at the University of New South Wales and the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The first half is a species-by-species description with color photographs of all living pinnipeds. Included for each is its distribution, life history, food, habits and commercial exploitation. There is a separate chapter on fossils, relationships and chromosomes. High school students would use this half of the book.

The second half covers: flippers and locomotion, temperature regulation, skull and skeleton, reproduction, nervous system, senses, diving, parasites, pathology and pollution. Appendices include "Origins of Scientific Names", a geographical index and a reference of seven hundred titles for the serious student.

Its modest price belies the vast amount of information in this compact volume.

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SPIDERS OF THE WORLD

by Rod and Ken Preston-Mafham. 1984. Facts on File Publications (460 Park Avenue South, New York, NY