

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