Book Reviews 63-64

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The Butler University Botanical Studies journal was published by the Botany Department of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, from 1929 to 1964. The scientific journal featured original papers primarily on plant ecology, taxonomy, and microbiology.

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BOOK REVIEWS

BIOLOGY

Hunter' in his recent textbook, "Problems in Biology," has brought the fruits of pedagogical research to textbook application in the selection and presentation of biological material for the high school pupil. The book is truly biological and not merely partly botanical and partly zoological. The material is presented in five parts. Part 1 deals with living things in relation to each other and their surroundings. Part 2 presents green plants as the manufacturers of the food of the world. Part 3 considers relationships and inter-relationships of living things. Part 4 considers the biology of man and Part 5 deals with the inter-relationships between man and other living things. Each part is further subdivided into a number of units and the various units are presented in the form of definite problems. Each unit is introduced by a survey of the work to follow and each problem is concluded by a "self-testing exercise." The material is presented in a style and on a plane well within the grasp of the high school pupil. In the treatment of the cell it is unfortunate that mitosis and amitosis are both presented, especially since they are so presented as almost certainly to lead the pupil to conclude that the former is characteristic of animals and the latter characteristic of plants. The book is concluded with a glossary of important technical terms and a valuable appendix. The author has made a distinct contribution to the science textbook field and a real service to the teaching of biology. The publishers, likewise, have done their part of the work well. In spite of the fact that there are over 700 pages, the book is not large, even though the print is unusually readable.—R. C. F.

ECOLOGY

The revision of Volume 3 of the Coulter, Barnes and Cowles' texts has recently come from the press. The organization and treatment of material has in the main followed that of the first edition. Changes of

material have been made in old topics and some new topics added where necessary to bring the text up to date. Important among these are considerations of “xeromorphic leaf structure,” a treatment of “life forms of stems” and “biological spectra” and presentation of some of the main results of studies in “photoperiodism.” Among the old topics in which considerable change was necessary to “modernize,” the reviewer noted especially the material on “sex determination.” All of our information regarding visible chromosome differences between sexes of plants has appeared in print since the first edition of this book, likewise much of our present conception of sex as a “physiological state.” In the treatment of “sexuality in the fungi,” it is surprising to note no reference to the recent work of Buller and his students. A most valuable addition is found in the well organized bibliography which brings the very latest references to the attention of those who wish more than can properly find a place in the volume. Dr. Fuller has done his work very well and it is to his credit as well as a tribute to the spirit and organization of the volume by the original author, Dr. Cowles, that so little change was necessary over twenty years after the first edition made its appearance. It is likewise a real achievement on the part of the publishers to produce a product so excellent in workmanship at so reasonable a price.

—R. C. F.

TAXONOMY

In “Common Names of Plants,” Clute” has opened a storehouse of botanical information and plant-lore to the layman. In the volume many of the common names applied to the familiar plants of fields and woods are unraveled. As pointed out by the author, the common names were in many cases the first names applied by those who had practical, every-day experience with the plants, and in most, if not every case, they had some logical connection with properties of the particular plant.

To the professional botanist this little volume is a bit of relaxation and its effects are exhilarating. He can return to his class in taxonomy with a new feeling for the significance of all plant names, and marvels at the ability of the author to give so much technical information so well shorn of its visible technical forms.—R. C. F.


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