

---

**General Biology.** *Harrington Wells and Patrick H. Wells.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1956. x+520 pp. \$6.50.

This new text for lower division college students is "an integrative text" designed for a one-year course in general biology. It combines principles with type study; facts with social implications. The father-son authors state that, "a foundational biological education may best be acquired upon bases of plant-animal structure, ecology, and comparative physiology, leading to generalizations in terms of human social interrelationships." They have accomplished this in four steps. Part 1, Basic Biology, deals with broad concepts (history, evolution, protoplasm, development, ecology). Part 2, The Living World, is a review of various types of plants and animals from algae to mammals. Part 3, Comparative Biology, discusses nutrition, respiration, circulation, excretion, motion, reception and response, growth and reproduction in major plant and animal groups including man. Part 4, Social Biology, discusses disease, endocrines, inheritance, conservation, economic biology, and biology and society. Each chapter ends with "Questions and Problems for Group Discussion and Review" and a list of "Suggested Readings." An appendix outlines the plant and animal kingdoms to class or order, in most cases, thus relieving the text of a bulk of taxonomic names and presenting them in a unified and condensed form. There is a detailed index. The text is illustrated with 300 excellent figures, many of which are original, having been photographed or drawn by the two authors. Each figure illustrates a specific point and is referred to in the text.

RALPH W. DEXTER.