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**Handbook of Biological Data.** *Wm. S. Spector*, Ed. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, Pa. First Edition. 1956. xxxvi+584 pp. \$7.50.

The quarto sized Handbook of Biological Data is a compendium which was prepared with the sponsorship of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of The National Academy of Sciences and The National Research Council. Funds were supplied by the U. S. Departments of Army and Navy, and by the Atomic Energy Commission, and the tables represent the correlated contributions of more than 4000 scientists, and the counsel of an additional 13,000.

Contributors and reviewers of the subject matter are alphabetized, then numbered, and references are made by these numbers. The table of contents also uses these numbers in citing the principal contributors for each subject. The index is in two parts, a Contributor-Reviewer index, and a Subject index, and both are used in correlation with the table of contents. The scientific and common names for every organism and chemical used are indexed, with organisms down to genus level only.

The guiding principle for inclusion of material was stated to be its basic importance or wide general interest, and its adaptability for tabular presentation. The range and amount of material assembled in this volume is tremendous, and for the production of a second edition with improved balance, better coverage, and with errors corrected, users are invited to advise the compiler.

The range of subject matter may be shown by the following list of divisions in the table of contents (divisions which are not marked in the text):

- I. Biochemical and biophysical characteristics;
- II. Genetics, cytogenetics, and reproduction;
- III. Development and morphology;
- IV. Nutrition, digestion and metabolism;
- V. Respiration and circulation;
- VI. Other physiological activities and performances;
- VII. Biologically active compounds;
- VIII. Environment and survival;
- IX. Symbiosis and parasitism;
- X. Ecology and biogeography.

THOMAS H. LANGLOIS

**Medical Sciences, Volume I.** *J. C. Bugher, J. Coursaget, and J. F. Loutit*, Eds. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. 1956. xii+165 pp. \$6.00.

Those who have eyed the great tomes of papers presented at the International Conference for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva in 1955 will appreciate this readable digest of the medical aspects. There are chapters on the use of radioactive isotopes in diagnosis, isotopes for external and internal therapy and the principles of radiation safety and dosimetry. Each chapter is a critical review by a well known authority. Such a book as this is indeed essential to keep one abreast of the expanding field of medical applications and is highly recommended.

FRANK BATLEY