
Sound and Hearing. *S. S. Stevens, Fred Warshofsky, and Editors of Life.* Life Science Library Vol. 14. Time-Life Books, New York, 1965. 200 p. \$3.75.

This work presents the latest ideas of how sound waves are received and communicated to a brain, and how the nerve impulses are translated into responses patterning behavior. The beginning of hearing is regarded by biologists as a series of slow changes from a balancing organ in fishes to the development of a functioning middle ear suited to air-wave reception in land animals. The illustrations explain changes in views on hearing from the earliest anatomical discoveries by Vesalius to the most recent interpretations of the complicated and delicate ear structures. The decoding of sound into hearing is much more complicated than any transducer-transistor human invention. The picture essays on stereo and echolocation as well as on the education of persons afflicted with hearing losses are all well presented. It is a book for all who are interested in the communication of ideas.

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