
Liberty Hyde Bailey. A Story of American Plant Sciences. *Andrew Denny Rodgers III.* Hafner Publishing Company, New York, 1949. (1965 reprint). 506 p. \$10.00.

This is a reprint of a volume which first appeared in 1949. The author occupies a unique position on the American literary scene, as a biographer of plant scientists and historian of the development of botanical sciences in this country. His seven books in this field, of which this is one, are readable, scholarly, and authentic. The sub-title more accurately describes this particular volume than the primary title; the book presents a geographical and chronological panorama of botanical and horticultural science over a period of seven decades, starting about 1880. The chronicle is threaded upon the life of Liberty Hyde Bailey, himself a protean figure, who touched almost every facet of the development of these sciences during his lifetime. This book is a must for anyone interested in the development of the botanical sciences in this country.

B. S. MEYER

BOOK REVIEWS

Mushrooms, Molds, and Miracles. *Lucy Kavalier.* Signet Books, The New American Library. (Paperback reprint) New York. 1966. 256 p. \$.60.

This reprint might well be looked upon as a short course on how fungi affect man, including fungal activities that are beneficial and detrimental to man. The book is divided into six parts, composed of 17 chapters. Part One, "Fungi and Mankind," includes 2 chapters which in essence introduce the material for the rest of the book. Part Two (4 chapters) relates the uses of fungi as foods. Part Three (5 chapters) discusses "Fungi and Your Health," including interestingly written chapters on the deep or systemic mycoses, on the superficial ringworm infections, on mold-synthesized antibacterial antibiotics and antifungal antibiotics, on other drugs and medicinals of fungal origin, and ending with a chapter on LSD and hallucinogenic fungi. Part Four (3 chapters) is a short course in plant pathology. Part Five (2 chapters) discusses some of the fungal byproducts causing destruction of things that belong to man and the mold-production of organic compounds used to benefit man. Part Six (1 chapter) relates fungi to the space age. There is an adequate bibliography and index.

This book is fascinatingly written and should help to interpret fungi and the realm of mycology and mycologists to the reading public.

JOHN A. SCHMITT

A Guide to Science Reading. *Hilary J. Deason,* compiler and editor, with original essays by H. Bentley Glass, Warren Weaver, Margaret Mead, Rhoda Metraux, and Joseph Gallant. Signet Science Library Book, T3003, The New American Library, New York, Second Revised Edition (paperback), 1966. 288 p. \$.75.

It is good news when a valuable teaching aid is kept up to date. This guide to science reading, written primarily for the advanced high school and beginning college student, though of interest to a much wider audience, has been revised to include books in print in the paperback field up through February 1966. The revision consists of the reevaluation of all of the 900 titles in the first edition, plus the addition of enough new ones to bring the total to 1350 titles, all of which are arranged into 88 categories according to the Dewey Decimal System. Each title is annotated and evaluated as to its audience level.

Teachers, students, librarians, and many others will continue to find this guide useful. Its need was first recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1955 and, with the help of dedicated individuals and The National Science Foundation, the project has resulted in several publications of which this is the most recent. The essays and the guide are well worth the attention of the young scientist.

EMANUEL D. RUDOLPH

Biology and Comparative Physiology of Birds. Vol. 2. *A. J. Marshall,* Editor. Academic Press Inc., New York, New York. 1961. x+468 p. \$14.00.

Biology and Physiology of Birds is the second of two volumes which must be considered together in this review of their treatment of this subject. The first volume treated twelve topics, including the biology, as follows: origin, adaptative radiation, classification, geographical distribution, development, integumentary system, skeleton musculature, vascular system, respiratory system, digestive system, and excretion.

Volume two deals mainly with physiology, and lists the following topics: central nervous system, sensory organs, sex and sex characters, reproduction, energy metabolism, flight, breeding, long-distance orientation, behavior, and bird populations.

This book fills a definite need in ornithology "to bridge the gap" both between popular and scientific ornithology and between European and American ornithology. Most basic aspects of the physiology of birds were formerly available only in foreign languages or in poultry journals.

The contributors of this volume relied heavily on references from German or French papers. It is apparent that they handled the material well. Each section brings the student up to date on both the subject and the literature concerning each life function of birds. The book should serve to introduce the serious student to the study of any one aspect of bird physiology and also to acquaint him with a general knowledge of avian physiology. It is a well printed, well illustrated, and finely bound book.

MAURICE L. GILTZ