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Book Notice

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The editor's purpose is to "treat the fundamental ideas, concepts, theories, and problems which are at the center of the chief divisions of the subject." He states that a number of fields had to be omitted entirely, and that not all the important concepts have been included within each field. Unfortunately, this is true.

However, there are several good chapters: e.g., those on nervous function, neurological correlation of behavior, motivation, feeling and emotion, learning, thinking, and the introductory chapter on methodology. Some chapters, such as those on development, maturation, and fatigue and efficiency have little or no theory in them. In a book of "theoretical foundations" the material of these chapters could perhaps have been included under appropriate heading in other chapters.

An occasional defensive and polemic tone makes the book unsuited for use with any but well-advanced students. Many experiments are discussed too briefly, and in some cases controversial matters are presented from one side only. The chapters are uneven in style and repetition from one chapter to another suggests that combination of the chapters would be in order. There are some errors in printing.

Even so, the virtues of the book should make it useful for advanced and graduate students, with suitable supplementation. It should deepen and broaden the view of present day psychology, as the editor hopes, both by way of acceptance and by way of disagreement. Some stimulating discussions should occur by virtue of the differing theoretical positions represented by the several authors.

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