
This is a book which should be in the library of every teacher of zoology. Dr. Wichterman's monograph, by far the most complete account of any protozoan, signalizes the change that has come about in our conceptions of the nature of the Protozoa. Paramecium is here revealed as not merely a single protoplasmic unit but as a complex organism with a complex mode of life.

A reading of this monograph naturally suggests a comparison with the similar work of Kalmus, published in Germany in 1931. The advances made in our knowledge of the subject in the intervening 22 years are striking. Kalmus (188 pp.) listed 833 references; Wichterman (527 pp.) gives about 2000. The progress in our knowledge of the reproduction and genetics of Paramecium has been particularly great during these years. For example, all the work of Diller, of Sonneborn, and of Wichterman himself has been published since 1931.

The outstanding merits of the book far outweigh any criticisms that might be made. Two minor faults may be mentioned: the occasional typographical errors, especially in the foreign language references; and an annoying lack of consistency in the use of "Paramecium" and "paramecium." The latter form of the word is obviously a common noun, and in the singular should be used with an article, as in "a cat" or "an ameba."

The book is well printed and is provided with many helpful illustrations.

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