
Career Opportunities In Biology. *Russell B. Stevens.* Row, Peterson and Company, Evanston, Illinois. 1956. 63 pp. 36¢ ea., quantity rates.

A welcome addition to the occupational literature, where publications on biology as a career have been few and often superficial, this new monograph is a must for vocational counselors everywhere. Prepared by the Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, it is not only comprehensive and authoritative but also attractively bound and illustrated.

The contents are organized to answer any question which might conceivably be asked by a serious-minded young person considering a life-science career. The first portion of the monograph answers the following questions: What is biology? What are the qualifications? What opportunities are there? What rewards can one expect? The second portion includes: Who are the biologists? What education is needed? What is the biologist's role? Where can more information be obtained? In the final section, itself worth more than the price of the monograph, are units on the divisions of biology, its professional societies and publications, and an annotated bibliography of more than 200 references, both general and specialized, dealing with all applications of the biological sciences.

In terms of this monograph's probable appeal to laymen, specifically the teen-agers for whom it was written, some minor criticisms might be made. More frequent use of bold-face sub-headings would have added to the readability of long passages of text. Shorter sentences and less technical vocabulary, in some instances, would have been desirable. A few references in the bibliography date back so far as to raise the question of obsolescence. Aside from these few faults, the monograph is a much-needed and valuable contribution to the science reference shelves of any school, college, or public library.

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Caves of Missouri. *J. Harlan Bretz.* State of Missouri, Division of Geological Survey and Water Resources. Rolla, Missouri. Second Series, volume 39, 1956. xxii+490 pp. \$2.50.

Caves of Missouri is a comprehensive guide to caves in a state well-known for its underground solution activity. It fills an existing gap in the inventory of cave information in the United States and, because of this has been expectantly awaited by speleologists everywhere. Introductory chapters deal with the origin of Missouri caves, phreatic and vadose solution, topographic relations of caves, and the origin and types of speleothems, the secondary carbonate deposits in caves. Thirty-nine caves commercially open to the public, either at present or in the past, are described in detail. Nearly 400 undeveloped or wild caves are outlined to a lesser degree. The whole book is profusely illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams. An appendix lists synonymous cave names; a glossary defines technical speleological terms.

Unfortunately Dr. Bretz's book has several shortcomings. The maps, while they show the general features of the cavern passages, do not supplement the text as well as they would if standard cavern mapping symbols were used. Theories of cavern origin, especially those dealing with vertical solution, are not borne out by actual cave conditions. And, no recognition is given to recently published speleological data either in the discussion or bibliography.

In spite of these deficiencies, *Caves of Missouri* is a valuable reference for the speleological research worker and the casual cave enthusiast.

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