
A Source Book in Animal Biology. *Thomas S. Hall.* McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. First edition, 1951. xv+716 pp. \$10.00.

In this source book editorial comment is kept to a minimum, serving to acquaint the reader with biographical data concerning the investigator and his position in time. The eight divisions of the book, with excerpts of actual writings quoted in some detail, are arranged in chronological order as nearly as possible. The omission of many investigators, of whom one invariably thinks when considering historical backgrounds of animal biology, results from the fact that the Source Book Series, to which this book belongs, is arbitrarily limited to scientific discoveries from around the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries inclusive.

The first division concerns the structure of animals and various attempts at showing, by systems of classification, the relationship of man not only to the lower animals, but also to other members of his own species. Developments in anatomy, gross and histological, are traced, likewise those in embryological studies.

In the second and third divisions man and the functioning of the various portions of his body and mind are lifted from the realm of the supernatural to conformity with physical and chemical laws and principles.

From spontaneous generation, through epigenesis to organ-forming germ-areas, the development of embryological knowledge is treated in the fourth division. Cellular and tissue differentiation receive consideration, pointing up evidence for evolution from a comparative study of embryos.

The fifth division deals with cytology. Microscopy furnishes the device whereby investigation reveals cellular structure leading to concepts of protoplasm, its constituent parts and the role of highly specialized cells in reproduction and sex-determination.

Division six, dealing with pathology is treated in an unusual manner in that the contributions include widely different aspects of bodily disorder—microorganisms, viruses, animal parasites, vectors, dietary insufficiencies and immunology.

Evolution and paleontology are fittingly presented together in division seven. Discussion of mechanisms and theories of heredity is related to evolutionary development.

Zoogeography constitutes the last division, with a brief discussion of earth's areas and regions and their typical faunas.

This excellent reference book should prove useful to advanced students of zoology. It is valuable to teachers of many branches of zoology, who wish to broaden their students' appreciation of the science of the present day in relationship to the past. Adversely, the inclusion of Willoughby's dissertations on the training of hunting dogs, methods of catching or shooting birds and hunting and game laws appears to have dubious value in this well-planned and well-arranged source book.

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