

Reviews of Recent Books



Life and Disease, edited by Dwight J. Ingle. Basic Books, Inc., New York, 1963, pp. 441, \$8.50.

This book is a collection of essays which first appeared in the quarterly, *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*. They were selected by Dwight J. Ingle, co-editor of that unique publication. There are twenty-three articles written by a spectrum of distinguished scientists (including six Nobel Prize winners) and divided under seven topics: evolution, infection, metabolism, circulatory system, cancer, nervous system and the temple of life.

Essays such as these are unusually useful. They present a lively and often vivid concept of a facet of medical biology which enables the general reader to view a common phenomenon in an uncommon way. Furthermore, as most of the articles are well written (a refreshing situation in science), the reader gains an esthetic satisfaction as well as gratification of intellectual curiosity.

Readers of this journal will be especially entranced by Tepperman's engaging essay on obesity and Schneider's provocative "What Has Happened to Nutrition" (in which he proposes, with some merit, that nutritionists become geneticists).

The reader who is a specialist in one field of human biology will certainly find much that is thoughtful and challenging in articles on topics outside his sphere of interest. The general reader will develop a more panoramic view of the current exciting fields of biologic research, including, for example, DNA-RNA, autoimmunity, antimetabolites, stress and behavior. All will be impressed, I believe, with the remarkable interplay or interweaving of one fragment of science with another. This interweaving, however, is likely the result of informed speculative thinking which, by suggesting hypothesis and theories, is helping us to understand a bit more the greatest enigma—life.

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BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

Books received for review by *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* are acknowledged in this column. As far as practicable, those of special interest are selected, as space permits, for extensive review.

The Year Book of Endocrinology, edited by G. S. Gordan. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1963, pp. 411, \$8.00.

Clinical Center Diet Manual, prepared by the Nutrition Department, The Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health. U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, Washington, D.C., 1963, pp. 121, 70¢.

The Role of Magnesium in Biologic Processes, by J. K. Aikawa. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1963, pp. 117, \$6.75.

World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 258, prepared by the Expert Committee on Medical Assessment of Nutritional Status. WHO, Geneva, 1963, pp. 67, \$1.00.

Annual Review of Medicine, vol. 14, edited by A. C. DeGraff. Annual Reviews, Inc., Palo Alto, Calif., 1963, pp. 468, \$8.50.

Lipoproteidlipase, by H. Braunsteiner, S. Sailer and F. Sandhofer. S. Karger, Basel, 1963, pp. 148, \$7.75.

Diet Manual of University Hospital, The University of Michigan, 8th edition. The George Wahr Publishing Co., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1963, pp. 145, \$2.25.

The Ulcer Diet Cook Book, by H. Rubin. M. Evans & Co., Inc., New York, 1963, pp. 223, \$4.95.

Klinische Physiologie Aktuelle Probleme in Übersichten, by W. A. Müller. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1963, pp. 391, DM 26.