

Reviews of Recent Books

Submicroscopic Morphology of Protoplasm (Second Eng. ed.) by A. Frey-Wyssling, Elsevier Press, Houston, Texas, 1954, pp. 411, \$8.50.

The author is professor of General Botany at the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich and this is the English translation of the third edition of his book.

The work is divided into three parts. The first deals with the fundamental concepts of the subject: phases in colloids, structure of crystals and gels, polarization microscopy, x-ray analysis, and electron microscopy. The second part describes the fine structure of protoplasm in general, with sections on the structure of chloroplasts, erythrocytes, and gametes. Finally, there is a description of the fine structure of such protoplasmic derivatives as chitin, cutin, keratin, and collagen.

This book is written for the non-specialist who is interested in getting an outline of the work in this field. It consists in the main of an exposition of the author's point of view with emphasis on those aspects of the subject with which the Zurich school has been especially concerned. It is therefore a monograph rather than a review.

From the point of view of the general medical reader the fact that the book has a botanical slant is a disadvantage: thus eight pages are devoted to the structure of cutinized cell walls while elastic tissue is dismissed in ten lines. As the author points out, "the chemical compounds of the cytoplasm would not be capable of accomplishing any useful work without definite positions in space," yet there is almost nothing in the book on the localization of enzymes apart from the twenty-page discussion of chlorophyll and the chloroplasts.

This is an excellent monograph and some sections of this book, such as the one on the structure of starch granules, are of special interest to nutritionists. However, the reader, interested in clinical nutrition, will find a book giving a general review of cell structure with the emphasis on mammalian cells, more comprehensible and more useful.

The print, paper, and the English of the translation show an improvement over the last English edition.

W. BEAUTYMAN

Vitamins in Nutrition and Health by A. Z. Baker, Staples Press, Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 147, \$2.50.

This is a short account of the basic information on vitamins written for students of domestic science and others concerned with food planning. As an elementary discussion, it is suitable for certain college courses in nutrition or dietetics. It may also be read with profit by the interested layman.

S.O.W.

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 a more extensive review.

Fat Metabolism. A Symposium on the Clinical and Biochemical Aspects of Fat Utilization in Health and Disease, edited by V. A. Najjar, Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1954, pp. 185, \$4.50.

Advances in Food Research. Vol. V, edited by E. M. Mrak and G. F. Stewart, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 538, \$11.50.

The Vitamins: Chemistry, Physiology, Pathology, Vol. III, edited by W. H. Sebrell, Jr., and R. S. Harris, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 665, \$16.50.

Standard Values in Nutrition and Metabolism, edited by E. C. Albritton, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1954, pp. 380, \$6.50.

Vitamins and Hormones. Advances in Research and Applications. Vol. XII, edited by R. S. Harris, G. F. Marrian, and K. V. Thimann, Academic Press Inc., New York, 1954, pp. 305, \$7.50.

Healthier Living by J. J. Schifferes, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1955, pp. 928, \$6.75.

