



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



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Volkstumliche Namen der Arzneimittel, Drogen, Heilkrauter und Chemikalen.
Johannes Arends. 15th ed. 418 pp.
Springer - Verlag, Berlin/Göttingen/
Heidelberg, 1961. DM 18.60.

This well known and widely used medical-botanical-pharmaceutical dictionary has entered its 15th edition as a much enlarged and an up-to-date reference work which will prove even more valuable than it has been in the past. One of the additions to this new edition is the names of folk-remedies, drugs, medicinal plants, and chemicals in south German, Swiss, and Austrian dialects. The technical or Latin nomenclature of the plants has been brought up to date since the last edition, which appeared in 1958. The book remains a scholarly one—as it always has been. It is published in the clear, readable format so typical of the books of Springer-Verlag and is well worthy of a place on the shelves of libraries dedicated to chemistry, the pharmaceutical sciences, medicine, economic and taxonomic botany, and certain branches of the anthropological sciences.

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Physiology and Biochemistry of Algae. Edited by Ralph A. Lewin. 929 pp. illus. Academic Press, New York, 1962. \$32.00.

Occasionally a book comes out at the right time, in the right form, with the right material. *Physiology and Biochemistry of Algae* is a new member of this select group. Ralph A. Lewin obtained 67 authors who wrote 55 chapters under the general headings of "Nutrition and Metabolism," "Composition of Cells and Metabolic Products," "Physiology of Whole Cells and Plant," and "Physiological Aspects of Ecology of the Algae." Three appendices (on classifications, uptake of radioactive wastes, and antibiotics from algae) round out a splendid book. The authors are internationally known experts in their fields of interest. Their chapters show the firm hand of Dr. Lewin, and the printing cannot be criticized. Theoretical and practical topics are side by side as they should be

and rarely are. No scientist who has even remote interest in the algae can be without the book. When this volume is supplemented with one of the standard compendia on algal life cycles and morphology (Fritsch, Fott, etc.) the professional scientist has *the* algae on his desk. This is not to say that the book gives all of the information on the algae. Aspects of the fine structure of algal cells, the genetics of algae, and industrial utilization are absent—deficiencies which call for another book. This does, however, point up the necessity and potential utility of continued study in these fields.

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Annual Review of Plant Physiology. Vol. 13. Edited by Leonard Machlis and Winslow R. Briggs. 610 pp. illus. Annual Reviews, Inc., Palo Alto, California, 1962. \$7.00.

The reviewer of a review is faced with the choice of being either too detailed or too general in his approach to the volume under consideration. When the volume contains 22 quite distinct reviews ranging throughout plant science, the choice of method becomes well nigh impossible. I shall straddle the fence. The editors have wisely grouped the separate reviews under a series of headings ("Cell Structure and Function," "Growth and Development," etc.) which provide some appearance of cohesiveness. These headings are also used for the cumulative index of chapter titles at the end of the book—a procedure which makes this series of annual reviews invaluable for the practicing scientist whether a student or professional plant physiologist or a researcher from another discipline.

The individual reviews vary widely in coverage, readability, style, and usefulness. Several have, regrettably, been used as a forum to advance a particular point of view rather than to attempt to supply the reader with a balanced account of the field of the review. Several are not up to date, with notable omissions of current research in other laboratories. Several should not have been published for reasons ranging from naivete to ignorance. On the other hand, the