

Book Reviews

A Glossary of Genetics and Cytogenetics (Classical and Molecular)

By R. Rieger, A. Michaelis and M. M. Green. Springer Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1968. 14×21 cm bound volume with jacket; 507 pages, including numerous tables and 90 black-and-white illustrations. DM 66 (US \$ 11.50).

Two German editions (*Genetisches und Cytogenetisches Wörterbuch*, 1954 and 1958) have preceded this English version, which has however been completely revised, as a result of recent developments of Genetics as a whole and, more particularly, molecular Genetics.

The present glossary includes some 2500 analytical entries and 1200 bibliographical ones concerning various branches of Genetics, with special respect to cytological and biochemical aspects, although classical concepts and terminology are also largely dealt with.

Many entries are completed by the indication of historical bibliographical references (name of the Author who first introduced a particular term or concept, and year of publication).

A large number of tables, schemes, diagrams and illustrations, and editorial accuracy contribute in making this book a very useful tool of research for any biologist, although some will inevitably find that some terms are missing, while others are useless and still others might have been better defined.

Genes, Chromosomes and Evolution

By Beryl G. Ashton. Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. London, 1967. Brochure; 14×21 cm; XII+172 pages; numerous tables, diagrams and black-and-white illustrations. 12s 6d (US \$ 2 approx.).

This third title in Longmans series «The Principles of Modern Biology» (after «Molecules and Cells» and «Statistics for Biology»),

especially meant for sixth-form students of Biology, provides a general introduction to genetic problems: phenotypic variation, mendelism and chromosomes; genetic variation and mutation; breeding systems, natural selection and evolution; human genetics. An outline of the modern concept of the gene concludes this booklet, which is completed by essential references, a short glossary and the index.

Diabetes in Sweden

By A. Grönberg, T. Larsson and J. Jung. Supplementum 477 to *Acta Medica Scandinavica*, Stockholm, 1967. 17×23 cm bound volume of 275 pages; 90 tables and 18 black-and-white illustrations (maps and diagrams). Price not indicated.

Sponsored by the Medical Research Council of the Swedish Life Offices, a retrospective study of mortality statistics and hospital data in diabetes mellitus (DM) in Sweden has been carried out by a team of medical and statistical experts.

3759 patients registered at the hospitals as afflicted with DM, with a total of some 45200 admissions or readmissions, between 1931 and 1956, have been considered. The data have been processed through punched cards («occasional» and «duration» cards).

After mortality among DM patients, mortality and morbidity risk for DM in the general Swedish population, symptomatology, treatment and complications, genetic aspects of DM are considered: from a general analysis of current conceptions and present data, it is concluded that, without excluding possible environmental factors, DM should generally be conditioned by genetic factors and possibly inherited as a sex-linked dominant.