

## READINGS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEHAVIOR

Edited by V.H. Denenberg (Stamford, Connecticut). Sinauer Associates Inc., Publishers, Stamford, Connecticut 1972. Distributed by W.H. Freeman and Company, Ltd. Paperback; 18 × 24 cm; X + 484 pages, including figures and tables. Subject index and author index. Price: £ 2.90 (approximately, US \$ 7.50).

The main purpose of this book is to provide a collection of readings dealing with both animal and human research on the development of behavior, and interpreted in a number of specific chapters. After a first, introductory chapter on the biobehavioral bases of development, five main parts follow: (1) Embryonic and temporal determinants (critical and sensitive periods, genetics and behavior, prenatal effects); (2) Biological and physiological determinants (sex hormones, nutrition); (3) Process variables (learning, perception); (4) Environmental determinants (environmental deprivation, environmental enrichment, infantile stimulation); (5) Social determinants (maternal influences, social factors).

The book is of wide interest to behavioral geneticists, as well as more generally to biologists and social scientists.

## PERSONALITÀ, EREDITÀ E AMBIENTE

*Personality, Heredity, and Environment*

By Lucio Braconi (Rome). Series, "Practical Syntheses in Psychology and Psychiatry" (*Sintesi Pratiche di Psicologia e Psichiatria*) edited by Tullio Bazzi e Mario Cimica. Rizzoli Editore, Milano 1972. Paperback; 12.5 × 18.5 cm; 262 pages including 3 illustrations. Author index and subject index. Price: It.L. 2,800 (approximately, US \$ 5.00).

This schematic but clear synthesis of personality studies is subdivided into three main parts.

Part one, origin of psychology and its schools, starts from the philosophical premises and ends with the present status of psychological studies.

Part two, personality, deals with the main personality theories and models, summarizing the highlights of the thought of Freud, Jung, Sheldon, Murray, Allport, Eysenck, Maslow, Morgan, and others.

Part three, heredity and environment, reviews the main facts of general biology and genetics, and the impact of genetics vs. environmental studies on personality development, as mainly assessed through twin studies.

The book is highly recommended to students, beginners, and the layman, in that it provides a peculiarly plain, but scrupulous and complete, general review; and may also prove of interest to the specialist, and especially the social scientist, for its methodological approach and as a reference tool.

## THE CURIOUS WORLD OF TWINS

By Vincent and Margaret Gaddis (Escondido, California). Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York 1972. Bound volume with cover; 14 × 21 cm; XIV + 210 pages, illustrated. Selected bibliography and index. Price: US \$ 6.95.

Scientists are used to consider twins in the light of the fundamental importance they have in genetic and behavioral studies. But to the layman, twins are first of all nice and a source of interest and curiosity. The present book is mainly written for the layman, for those interested in answering such questions as the origin of the twinning phenomenon, the extent of identicalness or diversity in the different kinds of twins, the reasons of bizarre anomalies as in the case of « Siamese » twins, or the extent of those so peculiar and startling emotional and psychic bonds between twins, sometimes even if reared apart, as has been in many instances dramatically reported.

The layman shall no doubt enjoy the book, and the scientist may also find in it a rather useful source of information.