

scritte, essi propongono una classificazione basata sulla suddivisione delle displasie in tre gruppi: (1) epifisarie; (2) platispondilie generalizzate; (3) epifisi metafisarie.

In questo modo si riesce ad inquadrare abbastanza il complesso capitolo delle displasie spondilo-epifisarie, anche se gli stessi autori sottolineano l'esistenza di numerose lacune, per l'opportunità di rivedere alcuni settori con criteri più precisi.

È inoltre necessario intensificare le ricerche sulla fisiopatologia, ancora completamente sconosciuta, e insistere sull'importanza di stabilire una nomenclatura internazionale al fine di evitare errori di classificazione e semplificare il lavoro ai ricercatori.

G. DEL PORTO

Elsevier's Dictionary of Pharmaceutical Science and Techniques

VOL. 1: PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY

(Dizionario Elsevier della Scienza e delle Tecniche Farmaceutiche)

(VOL. 1: TECNOLOGIA FARMACEUTICA)

Di A. Sliosberg (Paris). Pubblicato da Elsevier Publishing Co. Amsterdam 1968. Volume di 15 × 29 cm; XII + 686 pagine. 10000 voci in Inglese, Francese, Italiano, Spagnolo e Tedesco. Prezzo Dfl. 85.00 (US \$ 25.00 circa).

Questo Volume del Dizionario della Scienza e delle Tecniche Farmaceutiche fa seguito al « Medical Dictionary » di A. Sliosberg e precede il Volume 2 dell'opera in recensione.

Si tratta di un prezioso volume di consultazione, non solo per chi si occupa di farmacologia, ma anche (e forse più) per chi non se ne occupa direttamente, ma per ragioni svariate di ricerca o di cultura deve adoperare dei termini di questo settore di cui non conosce gli equivalenti in inglese, francese, spagnolo e tedesco.

L'organizzazione del dizionario è originale e consiste in una « base », data dall'elencazione alfabetica dei termini specialistici in inglese

con i termini equivalenti nelle altre quattro lingue (fra cui l'italiano), e poi nei quattro elenchi, uno per ciascuna lingua, dove per ogni voce vi è il rimando alla « base ».

La fatica di A. Sliosberg è degna di elogio, anzi di gratitudine.

L. GEDDA

Éléments de Biologie Cellulaire

(Elements of Cell Biology)

By J. M. Legay, M. Pavans De Ceccatty, G. Ducet, Ph. Lebreton (Lyon and Marseille). Editions Médicales Flammarion. Paris 1968. Paperback; 14.5 × 20 cm; 298 pages; schemes and 74 illustrations. Price 19 F (approx. \$ 3.50).

Éléments de Biologie Animale

(Elements of Animal Biology)

By J. David, R. Ginet, J. M. Legay, P. Lubet, J. Signoret (Lyon and Caen). Editions Médicales Flammarion. Paris 1969. Paperback; 14.5 × 20 cm; 530 pages; tables, schemes and 231 illustrations. Price 29.50 F (approx. \$ 6.00).

Éléments de Biologie Humaine

(Elements of Human Biology)

By J. M. Legay, J. C. Czyba, P. Dubois, Ch. Girod (Lyon). Editions Médicales Flammarion. Paris 1968. Paperback; 14.5 × 20 cm; 328 pages; tables and 124 illustrations (including one colored plate). Price 22 F (approx. \$ 4.50).

A textbook in three independent volumes directed to both medical and biological students, carefully organized and clearly illustrated by means of schematic illustrations. It is the result of a close co-operation among the different authors—all present or past scientific or medical professors.

Vol. 1 deals with cell structure and division, cell energy and enzymes—including the main phenomena of energy fixation and utilization—and the organization of Metazoa, the problems of cell differentiation and the classification and definition of the different tissues and systems.

Vol. 2, the central and more complete one, consists of five main parts: (1) Genetics—from Mendel's Laws to the modern concepts of the gene's structure and mechanism of action; (2) Reproduction and development in Metazoa—gametogenesis, fertilization, comparative embryology; (3) Comparative anatomy of Vertebrata; (4) Ecology; and (5) Evolution—including the origin of man.

Vol. 3 finally deals with all main problems of human embryology—from germ cells to morphogenesis—and histology, providing a detailed description of the different tissues.

Growth, Disease and Ageing

By Philip R. J. Burch (Leeds). Oliver and Boyd. Edinburgh 1968. Bound volume with cover; 14 × 22 cm; VIII + 214 pages, including numerous graphs. Price 63 s. (approx. \$ 8.00).

Two new and extremely important theories are examined and worked out in this book.

The first theory, introduced by Burwell in 1963, proposes that growth in mammals be centrally regulated by the lymphoid system: some class of small lymphocytes would stimulate symmetrical mitosis in certain target cells.

The second theory, proposed by Burnet in 1959, proposes that autoimmune diseases be the result of a central breakdown in self-tolerance: a "forbidden-clone" would originate as a result of a mutation in a mesenchymal stem cell, and the mutant cells would produce cellular or humoral autoantibodies; hence, the disease.

On account of these two concepts, a unitary theory of growth and disease is proposed, relating the physiological phenomena of growth-control and cellular differentiation to a number of pathological phenomena, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, schizophrenia, and autoimmune (or "autoaggressive", as the author suggests to call them) diseases.

The book will be of a large interest to all biologists and physicians, but especially to immunologists and geneticists.

Regulatory Functions of Biological Membranes

Edited by Johan Järnefelt (Helsinki). Elsevier Publishing Company. Amsterdam-London-New York 1968. Bound volume with cover; 17 × 23 cm; VIII + 312 pages; 59 tables; 190 black-and-white illustrations. Price Dfl. 55.00 (approx. \$ 15.00).

Here are the Proceedings of the Sigrid Jusélius Symposium on Regulatory Functions of Biological Membranes held in Helsinki on November 6-9, 1967, with the participation of numerous specialists of different fields.

The following topics are dealt with by the different articles: molecular structure and function of cellular membranes; molecular organization of mitochondrial cristae; structure and function in membranes of photosynthetic systems; membrane lipids; lipid-protein interactions in cellular membranes; nuclear magnetic resonance studies of biological membranes; adenine nucleotides and membrane conformation; the excitability and cooperativity of biological membranes; enzymic reaction mechanism in the utilization of nucleoside triphosphates; control of glycolysis; the salt pump of animal cell membranes; oxidative metabolism and aldosterone regulation of sodium transport; metabolic effects associated with the stimulation of sodium transport by aldosterone; fractionation of rapidly labelled RNA from toad bladder tissue; synthesis of proteins and nucleic acids in brain cortex slices; the prostaglandins: co-ordinated formation of membranes and biosynthetic activity during growth and development; osmotic coupling in ion translocation; ammonium ion uptake by chloroplasts, and the high energy state; energy control of substrate utilization in mitochondria; inorganic pyrophosphate as energy donor in photosynthetic and respiratory structures; binding of brothymol blue by mitochondrial membrane components; effect of some naturally occurring polyacetylenic compounds on mitochondrial metabolism.

Numerous and well commented high magnification (up to 1 000 000 x) electron micrographs complete this beautifully produced book.