

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Biochimie et Médecine*, L. MASSART. Série: Actualités Médicales. Ed. "Erasme"  
S. A., Brussels, 1947, pp. 70.

The endeavours of the editors of the series of monographs: "*Actualités Médicales*" are to be applauded. The medical man of today is not able — even to a limited degree — to keep abreast of the innumerable important investigations and interesting results in the field of biochemistry. The number of communications in the journals is overwhelming, especially since the conclusion of the war, now recent discoveries made in America have penetrated to the rest of the world.

MASSART gives a lucid review of number of subjects, derived from different departments of biochemistry, which may serve to broaden the physician's outlook and increase his scientific insight. The author discusses the use of isotopes, enzymes and their signification for medicine, vitamins, vitagenes (a new concept) and hormones (especially those of the pituitary gland), intermediary metabolism (in which new conceptions regarding the metabolism of cholesterol are important) nutrition (little but interesting), while attention is also paid to the departments bordering upon biochemistry, viz. histochemistry and pathology.

To physicians who wish to keep abreast in some degree of the advances in a science, destined to play an increasingly important part in their education and practice, the lecture of this well-written booklet can be recommended.

This has also been published in a Dutch edition.

E. C. NOYONS (Amsterdam)

*Les Inositols*, by P. FLEURY ET P. BALATRE, Masson and Cie (1947). 165 pp.,  
23 × 14.5 cm, Fr. 300.—.

In their Introduction the authors state "Il nous a donc semblé que l'heure était venue où une monographie, présentant un tableau aussi complet que possible de la chimie et de la biochimie des inositols, pourrait être susceptible de rendre service aux chercheurs en groupant dans un ordre aussi logique que le permet la complexité du problème l'ensemble des recherches effectuées à l'heure actuelle de façon à dégager les résultats acquis et à montrer en même temps les incertitudes et les contradictions qui règnent encore dans ce domaine".

The authors have, in fact, succeeded in producing a timely and most valuable contribution to the literature of biological chemistry. This book is interesting to read, it is arranged with a logical clarity and does emphatically indicate the complexities, uncertainties and contradictions reigning in the field covered.

There is an exhaustive bibliography but no index beyond a fairly extensive Table of Contents. Printer's errors appear to be few and do not detract from the value of the book.

Professors FLEURY and BALATRE deserve hearty praise for their work.

D. J. BELL (Cambridge, England)

*Physiological Psychology*, G. L. FREEMAN. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., New York, Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London 1948, 350 pp, Dollar price \$ 4.50, Sterling price 25 s. net.

The author has made it his object to give a systematic survey of the present state of physiological psychology and also to make psychologists acquainted with the most important facts and theories concerning the physiology of the central nervous system. The subject-matter has been divided into four parts.

In the first part a survey is given of the function of the nervous elements, the receptors and effectors. The second part is devoted to the function of various parts of the central nervous system, while in the third part the integrative activities of the central nervous system are mainly reviewed. In the fourth part one finds a review of the significance and the relation of the central nervous system to the psychic functions of man.

Each chapter is supplemented with a small number of references in which however Anglo-American articles are almost exclusively cited.

This well-arranged book will certainly be of importance to psychologists; the medical man will at best find news in the fourth part.

J. TEN CATE (Amsterdam)