secondary-school generation of future citizens will find relief from many misgivings in this brief book. The writers' optimistic trust in a future that seems so full of foreboding to some of us who are older; their willingness, even eagerness, to contribute their undoubted talents to the war effort and whatever lies beyond; their matter-of-factness in accepting difficult conditions as they are, with no trace of criticism of their elders who, perhaps, might have presented them with a far better world, if wisdom were not so frequently overcome by more selfish considerations; all these and more are here offered by some of the ablest youth of our land.

From bobby pins to sugar beets, from blood plasma to winning the peace, they show that they are not only on the front line, but frequently in the seclusion of their own private home laboratories have stepped over with their research into the realm where the possibilities are so numerous. And they do this so objectively and maturely it will gladden the heart of anyone who has struggled with the indifference and lack of understanding so characteristic of many of their contemporaries.

By all means, try to find the time to read this small volume. It will require hardly an hour. And at the end there is a copy of the test each one was required to take. This, with the self-scoring sheet included, may prove to be disconcerting, but it will increase your respect for our future scientists and your hope for all that lies ahead.

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GRIFFITH, JOHN Q., JR., M.D., and FARRIS, EDMOND J., PH.D. (editors). *The Rat in Laboratory Investigation.* J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. xviii + 488 pp. illus. 1942. $7.50.

This book is a veritable library of information on laboratory techniques involving the rat. It will interest technicians, breeders, research workers, teachers and anyone else who thinks in terms of experiments on the higher animals. Although described with specific references to the rat, many of the methods and principles would apply also to the mouse, guinea pig, rabbit and other similar animals. Teachers will probably find most interest in the chapters on general methods, anatomy, dietary requirements and behavior. There is a total of twenty-two chapters, written by thirty nationally known authorities, covering the above-named topics and also breeding, embryology, physiology, radiology, surgery, parasitology, diseases, histological methods and still others. The authors of course vary in technicality of language and style, but there is more continuity of thought than is usual in books written by so many collaborators. Many of the 178 excellent illustrations are in color. About 30 tables, including a 36-page one on dosages of chemicals, add greatly to the reference value of the book. The chapters are followed by extensive bibliographies. The index is comprehensive and well arranged.

JOHN BREUKELMAN

WEATHERWAX, PAUL. *Plant Biology.* W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. 455 pp. 417 illustrations on 182 figures. 1942. $3.25.

The book is written for an elementary course in Botany. It is clear, concise, and avoids an excessive use of technical terms. The illustrations are well used to emphasize points in the text. The first two-thirds of the book is given to the general principles of botany, using well-selected plants to clarify the ideas. The parts of the plant and their structure are directly associated with the physiology of the whole plant. Separate chapters on growth, responses, and reproduction cover those subjects. An unusually fine, simplified chapter on heredity completes the first part of the book.

The last one-third of the book starts with a chapter on taxonomy and leads to a discussion of each of the different classes of plants. The evolution of plants is stressed, which leads to the chapter on the dispersal of seeds. The final chapter is on plant ecology, a recent addition to the study of elementary botany. Each chapter has a summary, and at the end of the book is a glossary of some 400 terms.

HOMER A. STEPHENS