

realize that the several metabolic processes of the cell must be co-ordinated if life is to be maintained; Darwin is made to appear an ignorant dogmatist; and a footnote irrelevant to the prevailing argument contains an attack upon a distinguished zoologist for a blunder corrected a quarter of a century ago. But Prof. Wood Jones's censure is by no means confined to individuals: it embraces the whole of civilized mankind. Not one virtue illuminates man's degradation. Man ("arch-destroyer of life") is the slave of his so-called civilization, and his slavery is "the degenerative bondage of the dependent domesticated animal". The benefactions of civilization, we learn, "range from cocktails and contraceptives to napalm and atomic bombs", and atomic warfare is to be used by those in authority "on any occasion on which they fancy it can be used to their advantage". No proposals are made for putting this deplorable state of affairs to rights, and no moral precepts are born of its contemplation—unless, indeed, that mankind, being deaf to instruction in the true mechanism of evolution, deserves to remain in that despicable situation in which Prof. Wood Jones finds it now to be.

P. B. MEDAWAR

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF THE WORLD

World Directory of Medical Schools
Répertoire mondial des Écoles de Médecine. Pp. 220.
(Geneva: World Health Organization, 1953.)

THE data of this directory are arranged alphabetically by countries (according to their English names) and within countries by cities; in a few cases the countries have been sub-divided into large political or administrative units. Where there are two or more institutions in a city, they are listed alphabetically. The index of geographical names covers all the countries, their sub-divisions and towns. The details of each institution are arranged in thirteen columns spread across pairs of pages and giving the following information: the name of the institution; the year of its foundation; the auspices under which it operates and/or the body or persons responsible for its management; the academic year during which it functions; conditions for admission; the numbers, full-time and part-time, respectively, of the teaching staff; the numbers, men and women, of students; the numbers of students admitted annually; the language of instruction; duration of studies; degrees obtainable; the annual numbers of graduates; and the annual tuition fees (given in local currency). All the entries are given in both English and French.

The directory is admirable in its intent and fulfilment thereof, so that a discordant note in this notice may be considered by some to be churlish. However, in the interest of practical economy, is it necessary that the book be twice as long as it need because of the diligent (nay, fanatical) duplication of every entry in English and French (even to the extent of the index)? It is almost an insult to the intelligence of French-speaking persons that "3 years in an accredited college or university" needs to be translated into "3 années d'études dans une université ou un «collège» reconnu"; and though the British are notoriously insular and ill at ease in any but their own tongue, they are surely not so dull as to

need to be told that "Diplôme délivré par une faculté de médecine" means "diploma issued by a medical faculty". These are not isolated examples, but rather are characteristic of the whole volume. Nor does the criticism end there. For the twenty-one Italian institutions (occupying more than seven pages), in the columns giving the conditions for admission, the language of instruction and the degrees obtainable, the items are all identical and are repeated each time.

Thus, to sum up, the World Health Organization has performed a valuable service in producing this directory. The book excels in fulfilling its purpose, but does so at an unnecessary expense that might perhaps have been better used to further the magnificent work which the Organization does in the relief of human suffering.

A NEW FUNGUS FLORA

Flore Analytique des Champignons Supérieurs (Agarics, Bolets, Chanterelles.) Comprenant les Espèces de l'Europe Occidentale et Centrale ainsi que la plupart de celles de l'Algérie et du Maroc. Par Robert Kühner et Henri Romagnesi. Pp. xv + 558. (Paris: Masson et Cie., 1953.) 7970 francs.

A GREAT deal of work has gone to the making of this ambitious flora, which takes the form of descriptive dichotomous keys to the families, genera and some two thousand species of the larger European and many North African fungi. Notes and critical observations on approximately eight hundred species, additional to those in the keys, are appended and many excellent drawings depicting microscopic details of spores, cystidia, cuticle hairs, etc., add to the usefulness of the book, which includes an index, glossary, tables of abbreviations and references to the main periodicals and literature cited. The authors, two mycologists well known for their many publications on Agarics, have incorporated in their present work much recent monographic research previously scattered in different and, often, inaccessible journals.

The system of classification adopted is modern, that is, it approximates so far as possible to a natural classification, and differs notably from that of Fries. As the latter method is still largely used by many mycologists, comparative tables have been made, that is, (1) key summarizing the classification used by the authors, (2) key to the Friesian genera and sub-genera, and (3) keys correlating the two systems.

The flora comprises the Agaricaceae, Cantharellaceae and Boletaceae, resupinate and bracket forms being omitted.

The Boletaceae are divided into two main groups: the poroid Boletaceae and the lamelloid, the latter being represented by *Phylloporus*, *Gomphidius* and *Paxillus*.

The Agaricaceae are subdivided into Russulaceae, Amanitaceae, Volvariaceae, Lepiotaceae, Coprinaceae and Rhodophyllaceae, which form one group, and the Boletaceae lamelleae (an overlapping section), Naucoriaceae (including Cortinariaceae), Hygrophoraceae, Marasmiaceae, Tricholomaceae and Pleurotaceae making up a second group.

However admirable, a work such as this cannot fail to receive some adverse criticism. The most serious fault, in this instance, is that about eighty species or varieties new to science are described within the body of the keys, with no Latin diagnoses or type specimen citations; and, moreover, nowhere