

the journal will be to publish work from Tfebon, contributions are invited from other laboratories on any aspect of phycology. The standard of production of the journal is satisfactory, with clear printing on good paper. The matt finish of the paper does, however, suggest problems for studies where the results are essentially photographic. The half-tones included in the present number (chiefly photographs of experimental apparatus) are adequate for their purpose but would not be of sufficiently high quality for clear presentation of detailed electron micrographs. The chief value of the journal will doubtless be as an outlet for the rapidly increasing amount of work on algal biology in relation to the potentialities of the algae as a food source of worldwide importance.

GORDON F. LEEDALE

## SPONGOLOGY

### The Biology of the Porifera

Edited by W. G. Fry. (Symposia of the Zoological Society of London, No. 25.) Pp. xxviii + 512. (Academic: London and New York, May 1970.) 150s; \$22.50.

THIS new symposium in the Zoological Society series is a welcome addition. Study of sponge biology has been recently much neglected, and this collection of papers should do much to revive interest in this interesting group of animals.

The symposium, which was held in London in September 1968, was a particularly interesting one, mustering as it did, not only many of the world's authorities on sponges, but other biologists interested in cell adhesion and morphogenesis for whom sponges must have a special appeal. The papers range from fossil histories and affinities through subjects such as ecology and taxonomy of certain groups, cytology and ultrastructure. This volume is particularly welcome in that there is no modern general text dealing with sponges to which a general zoologist might turn for information, and this present work will undoubtedly provide a stimulus for further research. The principal sections are devoted to palaeontology, spicules and phylogeny, the ecology of certain groups or regions, cellular aggregation, integration of the cell types and morphogenesis. It is difficult to single out particular contributions as of particular interest for this is an individual matter. Dr Fry is to be congratulated in having achieved with such obvious success a difficult task of editing, and in producing a particularly useful index. This is a volume to be added to the shelf of every zoology department library. Certainly those with any interest in sponges cannot afford to be without it, and to those tempted into the field of sponge research, the bibliographies given in each contribution will provide a valuable starting point.

I regret that papers submitted in French or German remain in the original. These include important contributions by M. le Professeur C. Lévi, Madame O. Tuzet, Hr Dr H. Mergner, and M. le Dr R. Borojevic. It would be unrealistic to think that these chapters will be widely read by students; this is regrettable, and I think they should have been translated into English. Apart from this, Academic Press are to be congratulated in maintaining the high standard of typography and production achieved in this, as in the preceding titles of the series.

R. PHILLIPS DALES

## LANGUAGE PSYCHOLOGY

### An Introduction to the Psychology of Language

By Peter Herriot. (Methuen's Manuals of Modern Psychology.) Pp. 197. (Methuen: London, March 1970.) 42s.

In recent years language has become a subject of central concern to psychologists. Some fifteen years ago it was possible to provide a survey of psychological studies of language within a coherent framework. A large range of

problems was at that time approached within a uniform associationist viewpoint; the differences between psychologists applying information theory to speech perception and those using concepts from animal behaviour to investigate how children learn to talk were chiefly ones of emphasis. This viewpoint has since been vigorously attacked by linguists for its failure to account for some of the most important properties of language. The subject matter is now in a very confused state: neither modifications to previous theories nor attempts to develop "performance models" from linguistic theory have had much success. This makes the task of writing a book today that is both an accurate survey and a coherent introduction to the subject an extremely difficult one.

Dr Herriot is one of the very few authors in recent years to attempt this. In *An Introduction to the Psychology of Language* he has produced what is a useful, accurate and well written survey of recent research on language. Perhaps, inevitably, in a book intended to be both short and comprehensive, certain sections tend to be little more than lists of technical terms, definitions and one sentence summaries of experimental studies. The range of topics discussed is a very conventional one and it is unfortunate that well known, but distantly related, work on memory is included at the cost of any reference to less familiar areas, such as bilingualism, second language learning or machine translation.

The title holds out the hope of an attempt to communicate what is exciting or challenging about the enterprise. In general, however, the author confines himself to providing a reference source, and readers for whom this book does serve as an introduction may well find the subject dull. For example, even the most critical will admit that contemporary work on generative grammars has produced fundamental and fascinating insights into language. The brief space devoted to this in the book is largely critical and a newcomer to the subject is likely to be puzzled that Chomsky and his colleagues have been so influential in the study of language. R. A. BOAKES

## SELECTED TITLES

### Titles in Medicine

Edited by Robert S. Goodhart. Vol. 1, No. 1. (Communico Inc.: Fairfield, New Jersey, March 1970.) \$2 per monthly issue; \$15 p.a.

It is admirable that medical practitioners should be confronted with the existence of the medical literature and encouraged to read a little of it. This new secondary journal, which simply reprints the contents lists of about two hundred relevant periodicals, is to be sent without charge to "specific qualified physicians and surgeons" (presumably in the USA) and promises them—and other subscribers—twenty-four reprints of their choice for an annual fee of \$30.

The perceptive recipient will quickly realize that these services differ no whit from those offered by the Institute for Scientific Information's *Current Contents/Life Sciences*, which indeed would seem to be the superior (certainly handier) publication. ISI discovered that the labour of resetting contents lists could be obviated by the simple device of reproducing title pages photographically, which is not only cheaper but also more satisfying for the reader who sees the contents in their familiar format. ISI, moreover, has the grace to call its reprints "tear-sheets", thereby sidestepping some of the copyright problems thrown up by these ventures. And, finally, two hundred journals are just not enough: why not include *China's Medicine*, for example, for the benefit of those who wish to preserve a balanced outlook? And why should the practicing [sic] physician be denied a sight of titles of Letters to the Editor of *Nature*? From Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Titles in Medicine*, it seems that only the longer articles are worthy of his attention. J. H. MORRIS