

not been brought into line with the now accepted reality of precise segregation in the tetrad.

D. LEWIS

SCIENTIFIC SESSION ON THE PHYSIOLOGICAL TEACHINGS OF ACADEMICIAN I. P. PAVLOV. Academy of Sciences and Academy of Medical Sciences. 1951. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House. 174 pp. 2s. 6d.

This pamphlet reports in an official translation some of the papers given in a discussion of the present position of Pavlov's teaching in the U.S.S.R. The speakers show that Pavlov's work agrees in all points with the principles of Lenin and Stalin and also of Michurin and Lysenko. They assert that nevertheless much work on nervous physiology is now being carried out by Academician Orbeli and his disciples which disregards Pavlov's principle and "Michurinian biology", adhering rather to "formal geneticist views". In reply to these criticisms Orbeli is said to have made a statement admitting "the erroneousness of his first speech", but failing to "give a lucid criticism and analysis of his errors". Orbeli's statement is not reported but this was the wording of the resolution of the Academy of Sciences which concluded the session and demanded the reform of all physiological teaching and research in the U.S.S.R. No dismissals were recommended on this occasion but it was resolved to have annual conferences in future to continue the discussion.

C. D. D.

AGROBIOLOGIE. By T. D. LYSENKO. Arbeiten über Fragen der Genetik, der Züchtung und des Samenbaus. Redaktion der Deutschen Ausgabe. W. Höppner. 1951. Berlin. Verlag Kultur und Fortschritt. Pp. 1-670.

A German translation of the collected essays and addresses of T. D. Lysenko beginning with "The Theoretical Bases of Jarovisation" in 1934 and concluding with "J. W. Stalin and the Michurinite Agrobiology" in 1949. There is a bibliography of the author's hundred most important papers from 1923 to 1947 prepared by I. J. Glushchenko.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS. Roger Pilkington. 1951. London: Allen & Unwin. 214 pp. 18s.

This book is an attempt to introduce to a general but intelligent audience the facts of development and heredity (in that order) as they apply to man. The author's understanding of the fundamentals of the subject is much deeper than his delightfully vivacious manner would suggest to the soberly technical reader. He really believes in genetics although he misses some of its finer points, for example the effects of inbreeding on populations. He spells H. J. Muller's name wrong and he makes Francis Bacon a contemporary of Isaac Newton. His notions that the chromosomes were discovered in the twentieth century is a more serious post-dating. And the reviewer sheds a tear to see two-strand crossing over considered more suitable than four: after all crossing-over, correctly described, is easier to understand than the implantation of the ovum; and it is of greater consequence for life. Otherwise Pilkington's treatment is penetrating and sound and his information abundant and up to date. His 39 photographs are a joy to see.

C. D. D.