

MOLECULES AND LIFE. Mikhail V. Vol'kenshtein. Published by Plenum, 1970. Pp. 513. \$15.

This book is primarily intended as an introduction to molecular biophysics, and should be of use to physicists with an interest in biology and to biologists who appreciate a theoretical approach to molecular structure and function. The author applies, in some detail, theories derived from polymer chemistry to the structure of proteins and nucleic acids, attempting to relate structure to biological function. This he does, for example, for DNA replication, the genetic code, antigen-antibody interactions and mechanochemical processes. There is in particular a useful critical survey of many of the postulated mechanisms of muscle contraction.

Though mathematical analyses are used where appropriate, they do not interrupt the flow of the text too severely. The book is as a whole fairly readable, though on a few occasions what appear to be too literal translations of technical terms, particularly biological ones, give the text a slightly quaint appearance.

Unfortunately the production of the book is poor. The diagrams are frequently too small and badly drawn, and several errors in spelling and chemical formulae are apparent. It is regrettable that in a book of this price the proof reading was not more efficient; errors even appearing in the appended errata.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

THE BODY. Anthony Smith. Pelican Books, 1970. Pp. 654. 12s.

CHEMICAL INFLUENCES ON BEHAVIOUR. Edited by Ruth Porter and Joan Birch. J. & A. Churchill, 1970. Pp. 221. £1.75.

A NATURAL HISTORY OF MAN. J. Brierley. Heinemann, June 1970. Pp. 184. 35s.

BASIC IMMUNOLOGY. E. R. Gold and D. B. Peacock. John Wright & Sons, Bristol, June 1970. Pp. 416. 90s.

NORMALE UND PATHOLOGISCHE ANATOMIE. W. Bargmann and W. Doerr. Georg Thieme Verlag, 1970. Pp. 58. DM 38.

IMMUNOLOGY. D. F. Gray. Edward Arnold, August 1970. Pp. 222. 50s.

MEDIZINISCHE GENETIK: GRUNDLAGEN, ERGEBNISSE UND PROBLEME. von W. Lenz. Georg Thieme Verlag, 1970. DM 9.80.

LEHRBUCH DER ZUCHTUNG LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHER KULTURPFLANZEN. W. Hoffmann, A. Mudra and W. Plarre. Verlag Paul Parey, Berlin, 1970. DM 68.