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Reviews - Vistas of Science Books

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the State College of Iowa. Price $1.00. A 68 page bulletin including a list of selected books for use in elementary science as general reading and as references. Listings are organized by topics. Price, publisher and applicable grade level are listed.

Library or personal reference: Life Science Library. **The Cell,** Pfeiffer, John, el. and editors of **Life.** (1964). This is a 200 page synthesis of the **Life** magazine series on the cell together with an introduction on cellular "gross structure" and a discussion of the applications of cellular knowledge. Living behaviors of the cell, response to external stmiuli, physico-chemical nature of cells, cellular differentiation, internal and external rhythms, dynamics of ATP-ADP and DNA-RNA are given excellent up-to-date treatment. Schematic representations in color of cells, mitochondria, golgi bodies, endoplasmic reticulum and nucleic acids, together with photomicrographs of living cells enable the reader-viewer to visualize in three dimensions some of the dynamic properties of the "unit of life." The volume is unique for an analogy drawn between cell functions and the behaviors of a child, for pictures of how a human, an insect or a frog variously might view a lion, and for a graphic-art depiction of some of the history of medical advance.

Library and Personal Growth. Mankind Evolving, Dobzhansky, Theodosius. (1962, 1964). 381 pp. Paperback, $2.45. Yale University Press. George Gaylord Simpson in **Science** states: "The most interesting . . . the most judicious scientiic treatise that has ever been written on the nature of man. The book is clearly and interestingly written; it is carefully documented; and it displays tremendous erudition over an even broader range of knowledge than is found in its author's previous works . . . No one who is concerned with his own nature and that of mankind—and this includes the poets, philosophers, and theologians—can afford to miss this book."

Mr. Simpson's views express those of the reviewer. For persons seeking a broad and documentary perpective in matters of race and racism, this book is "must" reading. Probably no scientist today is so eminently qualified as Mr. Dobzhansky to interrelate knowledge of genetics, human evolution and culture.

Conservation. The Iowa Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America has prepared a list of books, booklets, periodicals and references for a conservation shelf in school and public libraries. Dr. V. B. Hawk Agronomy Department, Iowa State University, Ames, is chairman of the project.

Vistas of Science Books published by NSTA

Exciting discoveries, major breakthroughs and important new applications continue to widen our vistas of science, engineering, and technology. producing an impact on society that touches every individual. These expanding frontiers inspire large numbers of our youth to consider careers in science and thoughtful persons of all ages to seek a better understanding of the scientific-technological society in which we live. As a result, there is an insatiable demand for current, accurate scientific information. To fill this pressing need, the National Science Teachers Association has conceived and developed the Vistas Of Science series. In so doing, NSTA advances its own central purpose: improvement of the teaching of science. In addition, Vistas books provide scientific background for those who would be well-informed, responsible citizens.

Designed at the request of students and teachers, the series is produced under the guidance of an experienced Advisory Board. Each book is concerned with a specific science area, such as spacecraft, astronomy, measurement, microbiology.

Three types of information characterize Vistas Of Science books: presentation of subject matter, research frontiers and methods, and student activities. Vistas are science resource and enrichment literature that is sound and challenging. Written for junior and senior high school students, the Vistas are of interest and value to teachers and other adults as well.

Living Science Laboratories

Whether we like to admit it or not there are still many teachers trying to present some topics in science about which they are ill prepared. I have reviewed some new materials that may be an aid to such persons. I consider these raw materials as programmed learning experiences that can aid teachers who are not able or cannot find time to construct meaningful investigations in specific science areas. Programmed learning materials have been used successfully in industry for personal training for years. It places the emphasis of the learning experience directly upon the student. In the materials I have reviewed, there are provided (1) Problem cards, for confrontation and background (2) Experiment cards, providing a structured investigation related to the problem cards; (3) Procedure