

International Review of Connective Tissue Research
Vol. 1. Edited by David A. Hall. Pp. xiii + 401. (New York and London: Academic Press, 1963.) 14.00 dollars.

THE first volume of *International Review of Connective Tissue Research*, a new periodical, contains eight review articles. It is not idly called 'international' since the authors come from seven different countries—Scotland, Holland, Denmark, Hungary, India, Australia and England.

The past decade has seen a great increase in real knowledge of connective tissues and their components, and any method of assembling this is potentially valuable. There are now a number of examples of this type of reviewing periodical, which would be most valuable if it could give a reasonably complete running account of the subject. However, in practice they usually contain a heterogeneous collection of articles of variable interest and value. For every one you want you must buy and carry perhaps two or three others, and often more. This seems to be inevitable, and judgment must therefore be based on the best articles. In this volume there are certainly two which should be of wide interest and value, on the structure of collagen by G. N. Ramachandran and its metabolism by D. A. Lowther. The articles are complementary and have tables in common. There is a useful article on calcification of skeletal tissues by S. M. Weidmann. I also found J. Balo's article on atherosclerosis fresh and interesting.

In short, there is useful material in this volume, mainly for the specialist who is already familiar with some aspect of the subject. It would be more generally useful if the bibliographies gave titles, even if some of the articles had to be shortened and 17 pages of author index left out. There is a subject index, but it is only 5 pages long.

The Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide

By Prof. Alexander H. Smith. Revised and enlarged edition. Pp. 264 (188 figures). (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press; London: The Cresset Press, Ltd., 1963.) 45s. net.

LIKE its predecessor, *The Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide* is written for the amateur in non-technical style and has been considerably enlarged to include accounts of 188 species as against 124 in the original book. However, since Prof. A. H. Smith has altered the selection of species described in the first edition by deleting some and adding others, it follows that the book, as revised, covers an appreciably different range of fungi. The text has been modified, although the format remains much the same, with data grouped under the headings "Identification marks", "Edibility" and "When and where to find it". Furthermore, while each species is illustrated with black-and-white photographs of an extremely high standard, many of those previously used have been replaced. Another innovation is that 89 species are also illustrated in colour. Here one should note that the numbers of the captions refer to the species number in the text and are not in a running sequence.

In general the descriptions of the species, although of necessity brief, are adequate. However, just occasionally brevity has resulted in omission of important information. Thus I would have expected some reference to the fact that *Agaricus placomyces* becomes bright yellow on bruising, especially as this reaction clearly separates it from *A. silvaticus*—a species with which it is liable to be confused according to Prof. Smith (p. 197).

As to the addition of coloured plates, these will undoubtedly help to increase the appeal of this book. In the preface Prof. Smith writes: "Illustrations in color, however, are the most difficult aspect of a publication on mushrooms. To be of help rather than to be misleading, the color work must be accurate". I share these sentiments, but I'm not sure that Prof. Smith has altogether succeeded in his aim; although a number of

the coloured photographs are very good, others are bad. Thus on Plate 124a *Amanita muscaria* is shown as blue, whereas it must be assumed that the plate represents the white form of the species. Likewise *Lactarius rufus* is depicted as bright pink, whereas this fungus should be rich reddish-brown. Similarly the illustrations of *Lycoperdon pyriforme* and *Armillaria mellea* are so poor as to be scarcely recognizable. Nevertheless, taken as a whole, the coloured plates are superior to many which have been used to illustrate mycological works in recent years.

Apart from these relatively minor criticisms, I have no hesitation in recommending this excellent book to those living in North America who wish to obtain a knowledge of the larger fleshy fungi, be it for general interest or from the point of view of gastronomy. Furthermore, those who have used *The Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide* will want to purchase the revised edition since it covers an appreciably increased range of species. For those with an interest in mycology outside North America, this work will naturally have a more restricted appeal, but since it is attractively produced, reasonably priced, and of very good value, they too may wish to add it to their bookshelves.

D. A. REID

Les Maladies des Plantes Maraichères

Vol. 1. By C. M. Messiaen et R. Lafon. Pp. 153. (Paris: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, 1963.) 21 F.

THIS practical little manual of vegetable crop diseases is largely based on the experience of the authors in southern France. After brief but adequate introductory chapters, describing the agents of disease in plants and the principles of plant disease control, come chapters devoted to diseases of the following crops: tomato; egg-plant and capsicum; cucurbits; haricot beans; peas and broad beans; celery; and parsley. Symptoms are illustrated by simple but effective line drawings, supplemented by a few photographs.

R. W. G. DENNIS

Underwater Acoustics

Proceedings of an Institute sponsored by the Scientific Affairs Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and conducted by the Pennsylvania State University at the Imperial College of Science and Technology of the University of London, July 31–August 11, 1961. Edited by V. M. Albers. Pp. xiii + 354. (New York: Plenum Press, 1963.) 12.50 dollars.

UNFORTUNATELY the main title of this book, and the one it is likely to be known by, is a little misleading. It does not pretend to be a text-book on underwater acoustics but is a compilation of the papers presented at a symposium, sponsored by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in London in 1961. Nevertheless, the standard of the papers given is high and the book may be used for specialized reference in certain fields of underwater acoustics.

Papers include work on piezoelectric transducers, explosive sources, directivity and scanning, internal waves, scattering, ambient noise, flow noise and model propagation studies. Certain important areas of the field are not covered, notably: controlled propagation experiments in the sea and their theoretical interpretation, non-piezoelectric transducers, and the design of transducer arrays including reference to the interaction problem between elements.

It is clear that this is a difficult subject to present adequately since the scientific and engineering matter covered by the title *Underwater Acoustics* is very large; and the problem is complicated by the various grades of security imposed by national and international organizations. The organizers of this symposium are to be congratulated on pioneering such a meeting in the United Kingdom.

J. S. M. RUSBY