

with *Drosophila* have also been brought in where they would seem to be appropriate, so that many genetical books and reviews of a general kind are to be found in the list. By including articles from *Drosophila* Information Service, Dr Herskowitz has ensured the availability of a great deal of technical information not published in the normal way. He has taken the opportunity of catching a few publications which had eluded Professor Muller when he was preparing the earlier part.

Although a bibliography is not designed primarily to record the progress of a science, a great deal of information can in fact be gained from it. A striking feature brought out by Dr Herskowitz' publication, and one to which Professor Muller draws attention in his preface, is that the average annual output of papers relevant to *Drosophila* genetics has increased from 173 per year in the period 1925-38 to 237 in the years 1939-50; and this despite the facts that *Drosophila* has lost something of its dominating position in genetics and that the period in question includes the war years. Such figures bring home to us the accelerating progress of genetics itself as reflected in its ever-increasing literature; and at the same time we can see by the general references, which it is found desirable to include in a *Drosophila* list, how genetics is maintaining and even strengthening its unity as a scientific discipline, despite the growing spread of the living material from which it draws its experimental evidence. We can see, too, a different and more melancholy kind of history recorded in the pages of this bibliography when we observe the dates at which the publications of geneticists such as Dubinin and Timoféeff-Ressovsky suddenly cease.

But it is primarily as a guide to an extensive and essential genetical literature that *Bibliography on the Genetics of Drosophila* must be judged. It will fulfil this purpose admirably, and indeed it will be a necessity to every laboratory where genetics is practised.

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THE PLACE OF BOTANY IN THE LIFE OF A UNIVERSITY. Inaugural Lecture. By C. D. Darlington. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1954. Pp. 24. 2s. 6d.

An attempt to show that the development of analytical methods in the study of plants, chemical, genetical and microscopical, which was frustrated in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, has brought botany into relation with the other sciences and with the humanities, and thus requires the breaking down of the antique barriers between departments.