

Book Review

Science and Scientists. Edited by M. Kageyama, K. Nakamura, T. Oshima and T. Uchida. D. Reidel, Boston, 1981, xv + 454 pp.

This volume contains a collection of 56 essays written by an international group of authors to commemorate the 70th birthday of Prof. Fujio Egami. The intent was to gather contributions with wide ranging themes covering 'a kind of review of ongoing or past researches, an outlook on the future, or on science administration, research funds or awards or even on the relations of science with such other areas as human society, industry, medicine, arts, language, etc'.

The result is an interesting and well-produced but somewhat loosely connected series of essays with no real topical organization. The theme of evolution receives the greatest emphasis with at least 20 percent

of the essays devoted to its various aspects. Interspersed are essays dealing with such fields as the metabolism of inorganic elements, glycoproteins, selected biosynthetic pathways, ageing and an argument for increased use of Esperanto as an international language for science. Some contributions offer a general overview of an area; others are more personal accounts of a particular author's research efforts. Many authors touch on their own views of psychological factors which influence researchers.

There is an author index but no subject index. An interesting feature is that each essay includes a biographical sketch of the senior author and a photo. This strikes me as the type of book one might wish to peruse in a library, but one which will have limited appeal to individual buyers given the lack of focus.

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