

BOOK REVIEWS

THE UFAW HANDBOOK ON THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS, with an Appendix on Statistical Analysis. Edited by A. M. Worden. Pp. 368, 70 Figs. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London, 1947, 31s. 6d.

This handbook has been produced by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. It is intended as a practical introduction to the husbandry of laboratory animals for use by research workers and technicians. Both novices and experienced workers in fields involving the keeping of health stocks of animals for experimental purposes will find much of value to them in this book. The novice may be bewildered by the numerous variations in details which he will find reported from different laboratories. The experienced worker will be interested to learn what variations of detail have been found valuable by other workers. Scarcely any detail can be considered very much better than the rest and much depends on the availability of varieties of such things as food pots and water bottles, material for constructing cages and stands for cages, etc. One general principle, however, stands out pre-eminently, the simpler the arrangement the better. Simplicity in racks for holding cages, simplicity in the construction of the cage itself, simplicity in the food pots and water bottles all help towards cleanliness. Ledges in racks harbour dust and food, and getting it out with a brush spreads most of it into the air again to settle elsewhere. Labour and time are wasted. The best arrangement seen by the reviewer is that in her own laboratory, viz., racks made of gas piping, which, being cylindrical, affords the smallest possible area for collecting dust, and cages (not in her own laboratory) made of sheets of wire mesh with strong borders (for floor, walls and ceilings), held together with movable clips. These cages are hooked on the bars which hold the trays of the cages above, themselves loose and easily pulled out for cleaning. Each cage can be taken to pieces in nearly no time and many more cages can be sterilised at one time when in pieces than when whole. However, "chacun à son goût" (and his pocket). The animals considered in detail in this book are the rabbit, guinea-pig, Norway rat, black rat, mouse, wild house-mouse, wood mouse, deer mice, cotton rat, common or field vole, Orkney vole, golden hamster, ferret, hedgehog, pigeon, canary, amphibia, *Xenopus laevis* Daudin, and fresh water fish. Others dealt with more lightly are anthropoids, dogs and cats, horses, other ungulates, shrews, vampire bats, poultry, reptiles, marine forms and other vertebrates. Housing, nutrition, breeding, etc., and common diseases of each species are dealt with. In addition there are useful chapters on Law and Practice: The Rights of Laboratory animals, (much of which will be news to most animal workers), Pests of the Animal House and their Control, and an Appendix of 70 pages, a conspectus of the Elements of Statistical Analysis which should be read and digested if possible even by those readers who are already familiar with the recommended ways of planning and assessing the results of experiments. Another man's way of putting it is always worth examining.

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