Book reviews

Bachmann, K.: Biologie für Mediziner, 2nd ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York: Springer 1982. 435 pp., 319 figs., several tabs. Soft bound $ 20.70.

Genetics plays a crucial role in this German textbook of biology for medical students: 13 of the 27 chapters are linked to genetic aspects of biology. Two chapters are devoted to Mendelian genetics and its application to man by family tree analysis, twin research and cytogenetic methods. Even gene technology and statistics of evolution are topics which are offered to future doctors. The generation of mutations by radiation, as well as by other mutagenic agents is discussed.

This book is not intended as an introduction to human or medical genetics, on the contrary, it considers medical science to be a part of biology. This broad view is, however, impaired by the strict regulations on testable knowledge for the exam program. However, always considering this restriction, the book is excellent. It offers more than the normal medical student is interested in: it presents a biological view of the world, one in which man, as the future object of the profession, fits perfectly. Literature references are not given – it can scarcely be expected that medical students would have the chance for further reading. An interesting finding is a questionaire at the end of the book, by which the readers are asked to give their judgement about the quality of the textbook and are invited to make suggestions for improvements as well as to give indications of misprints.

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Zabeltitz, Chr., von: Energieeinsparung und alternative Energiequellen im Gartenbau. Stuttgart: Eugen Ulmer 1982. 115 pp., 181 figs., 60 tabs. Soft bound DM 48,–.

Saving energy have become the key words in greenhouse management, particularly in the temperate regions of Western Europe. Here the costs of heating constitute a rapidly increasing share of the total cost of greenhouse management. In practice many measurements are already being taken to reduce energy costs. On one hand by reducing heat losses through the use of double glass, new materials such as metalcoated glass, rigid plastic covers of polycarbonate or polyvinyl chloride, the installation of movable energy screens etc. On the other hand the use of heating fuels are reduced by the installation of more efficient heating systems, and more recently by the development of alternative energy sources for horticulture. Concurrently also techniques have been developed to increase the net area for growing plants in greenhouses by the use of moving tables. Together, these developments are leading to completely new concepts about greenhouse construction, a process which has only begun and which is to lead to the best compromise between optimal plant production and efficient energy use.

In view of these rapid developments members of the Institute for Technology in Horticulture and Agriculture of the University of Hannover have made an excellent compilation of all possible techniques to save energy in horticulture, including the use of alternative energy sources. The applicability as well as the economic feasibilities of existing as well as new techniques are critically reviewed, whereby energy saving properties in greenhouses are stressed. The book contains a wealth of technical data, conveniently presented in many graphs and tables, which will be very helpful in making appropriate decisions by greenhouse construction builders as well as growers.

The book is in fact a special issue of the journal "Deutsche Gartenbau" and consequently meant for the German situation. However, most of the techniques described apply to greenhouse management in all temperature regions.

This book is highly recommended for anyone involved in energy saving measures or construction of greenhouses.

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