

COLUMBIA



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## ORIGINS OF MODERN BIOLOGY

Url Lanham

This account of the development of the main lines of biology takes the story up to the beginning of the twentieth century, when science began to take on its present role as a large-scale professional activity. The overall trend in the huge establishment of modern science is toward anonymity. This book is concerned with the individualistic phase of biology; the dedicated individuals of past centuries, who advanced science by giant steps, are colorfully presented. \$7.50

## GALAXIES AND THE UNIVERSE

Lodewijk Woltjer, Editor

A result of the Vetlesen Symposium held at Columbia University on the occasion of the award of the Vetlesen Prize to Jan Hendrik Oort, this book contains the lectures given by Professor Oort, C. C. Lin, Bruno Rossi, and Allan Sandage. The topics discussed are: the large-scale distribution and motion of the interstellar gas in a spiral galaxy; spiral structure in galaxies; the progress made in X-ray astronomy in the past four years; and the age of the universe. \$6.00

## HUMMINGBIRDS AND THEIR FLOWERS

Karen A. Grant and Verne Grant

Based on careful field study carried on over a period of many years, this is an investigation of the interaction of hummingbirds and the flowers they choose for pollination. The text is written in a readable, straightforward style for the layman interested in hummingbirds as well as for botanists and ornithologists. The book contains numerous colored plates of hummingbirds and their flowers. \$15.00

THE HEPATICAE AND ANTHOCEROTAE OF NORTH AMERICA—  
EAST OF THE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN

Volume II

Rudolf M. Schuster

This is the second volume in a series of books on the Hepaticae and Anthocerotae of North America, east of the Hundredth Meridian, groups of plants comprising the liverworts. In Volume II, as in Volume I, Dr. Schuster discusses the form and structure of these plants, their distribution, and their relationship to the environment in which they are found. The book is generously illustrated. \$20.00

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## LETTERS

## to the editor

## Uric acid and glucose

Sir:

In the article "Rat Arthritis Calmed by Diabetes" (SN: 5/18, p. 477), the assumption is foreworded that diabetes might reduce an arthritic inflammation by interfering with glucose metabolism and inhibiting cellular activity.

In the case of gouty arthritis, the articular inflammation is usually accompanied by an elevation of the serum uric acid level. One way of treating this condition is to give agents to the patient that will enhance the rate of excretion of uric acid. One of the agents having this uricosuric effect is glucose.

It has been observed for many years that ingestion of a high carbohydrate diet or glucose infusion has the effect of reducing serum uric acid by enhancing its excretion through the kidney. In view of this, the alleviation of chronic arthritis in rats via induced diabetes may be a result of the elevation of blood glucose on the excretion of uric acid, rather than an alteration in glucose metabolism.

Terry Fleischman  
University of Toledo  
Toledo, Ohio

## films OF THE WEEK

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

**THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 22½ min. Offers a general introduction to the new world of the computer, emphasizing its present uses and its potential for the future. Explains how a computer processes information, and gives examples of uses. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase color \$250 or b&w \$135 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

**DENTAL HEALTH: HOW AND WHY.** 16mm, color and b&w, sound, 11 min. Mechanical analogies show the functions of the different teeth, and a model tooth illustrates decay. Fluorides, X-rays and malocclusion are also dealt with in establishing the importance of healthy and attractive teeth. Audience: junior high. Purchase color \$120 or b&w \$60 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**LEARNING WITH YOUR EARS.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. A game of Blindman's Bluff shows youngsters how sounds alone can provide information about objects: for example, the size and power of different hammers, the size and nearness of an animal and what it may be doing, and the feelings of a baby when he cries for attention. Other sequences demonstrate how sound varies with distance, and how some sounds can only be heard with special instruments. Audience: primary. Purchase color \$120 or b&w \$60 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**WIRRIIT WIRRIIT.** 16mm, color, sound, 7½ min. A tale of how the aborigine learned to make fire, told through primitive rock drawings. Audience: general. Rental \$2.00 from Films Officer, Australian News and Information Bureau, 636 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020 or western states, Press and Information Officer, Australian Consulate-General, 350 Post St., San Francisco, Calif. 94108.