

student, it should prove acceptable to geneticists not actually working in this discipline, for the book is beautifully organized and the text refreshingly concise. It supplements most usefully the corresponding sections in Whitehouse's book, reflecting as it does things under discussion as well as knowledge fully established.

The subtitle of Dr. and Mrs. Beadle's book, *The Language of Life*, is, 'An introduction to the science of genetics'. The book is, however, more than that. It is a lucid account of biology in general, starting with the origin and evolution of life, a subject to which some 50 pages are devoted. Mendelian genetics is discussed in another quarter of the book. The rest of the text is an authoritative exposition of the biochemical aspects of modern genetics, presented in a fluent popular style with illustrations that are fresh and illuminating. Easily read and highly informative, this book is a model of what an introductory book should be.

The Foundations of Genetics by F. A. E. Crew is mainly an account of classical genetics. About half the text is a critical tribute to Mendel and the pioneers of Mendelism. The later developments are briefly indicated. In scope and presentation this little book is eminently suitable for the general reader.

In the *Origins of Mendelism* the Librarian of the Botany School at Oxford gives an excellent account of the mental climate in which Mendel's work was done. Recognition of Koelreuter's work on the sexuality of plants carried out in the second half of the 18th century, and of the subsequent studies of the plant hybridists, only emphasizes the immense advance Mendel initiated by introducing qualitative criteria into the study of heredity. While accepting Fisher's contention that Mendel carried out his experiments to confirm a rigidly thought-out hypo-

thesis, Dr. Olby refutes the suggestion that the actual observations were not as painstaking. There is a good discussion on the difficulties that Darwinism faced as a result of Darwin's fear that natural selection would be discounted once it was accepted that sudden jumps occur in Nature. '*Natura non facit saltum*' was a ragged banner in a confused fight. In that fight the part that Galton played was not quite so clear as is suggested by the author: in fact there is excessive veneration of Galton, who is described as 'probably the most original biologist of the century.' The riddle why Mendel was overlooked for a generation still remains, even if it is true that the fundamental work carried out during those lost years made Mendel's contribution more meaningful to an age that was beginning to ask questions to which he had given a remarkably lucid answer—an answer which itself posed meaningful questions. Dr. Olby's study thus extends to the origins of present-day genetics as well as to those of Mendelism. The extensive appendices giving extracts from the relevant material discussed in the text add to the value of this important study. The frank discussion of De Vries' equivocal acknowledgement of Mendel is refreshing and welcome.

Lüth's study is a popular account of the development and present state of human genetics. Adequate and accurate, it goes beyond the usual limits of such expositions by dealing rather extensively with possible future developments—leaning in this heavily on the Ciba symposium on Man and his future, which was held in London in 1962. A more individual contribution is the grim and factual chapter on the collapse of academic values in genetics and anthropology in German universities during the twenties and thirties, a collapse which presaged Nazi Germany's descent into barbarism.

Corrigendum

Klinefelter's Syndrome with a Presumptive Deleted X Chromosome, by Johannes Neilson. Volume 3, p. 139.

Opening paragraph, lines 5 and 6, for de la Chapelle (1963), read, Valencia, Sonnenschein, Bur, and de Lozzio (1964).