
How easy it is, when one is accustomed to use an expression in a particular, narrow sense, to come to believe that this is the whole of its meaning. This book is entitled correctly, but is not concerned with the physical and chemical changes in the organism related to senescence and their relevance to the genesis and progression of cancer in that organism. It is an account by Dr. Strong of much of his work concerned with cancer and ageing in its general sense, whether this be the effect of maternal age, the ageing of a line derived from a hybrid cross as it is inbred, or, even, the efficacy as therapeutic agents of extracts from the livers of young and old mice.

The main topics discussed are the effects of maternal age and degree of homozygosity upon longevity and tumour incidence, the effects of selection upon the biological effects of carcinogens, studies on the pleomorphic gene LST and its allele 1st, and the effects of various extracts of liver upon naturally-occurring tumours.

Unfortunately, this book is difficult to read. Of its seven chapters, four are reports of lectures, one is based upon a lecture, and only two are new writing. This leads to repetition, to the use of inappropriate statements (one is repeatedly told, for example, that the author does not have the time to discuss something), and to the use of some illustrations which are acceptable only if the author is present to explain them. The author's prose style, with its idiosyncratic use of words and lack of clarity, adds to the difficulty: it is a pity that the editorial opportunity to present a clear and concise account of this important work has been missed.

The experienced investigator, prepared to take both time and trouble, will find much of interest in this book: it is not recommended to beginners.

D. C. ROBERTS


In 1859 Darwin and Wallace startled the world with the concept of ‘The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection’. Over one hundred years later it is difficult to realize that these ideas would have been swamped by the vast opposition they aroused, were it not for the detailed corroborative work done by the great biologists and geologists who were fired by Darwinism. One of the greatest of these was Ernst Haeckel whose major works ‘Generelle Morphologie der Organismen’ and ‘Natürliche Schöpfungsgeschichte’ appeared during 1866–1868. The present volume commemorates their centenary. It contains a brief autobiographical sketch, with a postscript by Heinrich Schmidt; Haeckel’s collected bibliography (by Thilo Krumbach); and a eulogy by Wilhelm Bölsche. Selections from Haeckel’s various lectures and writing take up about 450 pages and the book...