

public health hazards associated with the use of water, safety of water disinfection, protection provided by engineering controls of such hazards, the problems of drinking water supply and waste water management are subject matters of some reviews.

"Low cost medical practices", "The New Health Profession" and "Health Education in Schools" are informative reviews on the recent developments in National health care in U.S.A.

The rapidly growing numbers of old people in U.S.A. and their disproportionate contribution to the steadily rising cost of health care have focussed considerable attention on the health problems and needs of this segment of population. Some insight into these problems is provided in the review "Defining Health problems of the Elderly".

The efforts now being made by community psychiatric services to treat chronic mental patients and the efforts of State mental hospitals in providing care services in U.S.A. are described in "The Chronically Mentally Disabled and Deinstitutionalization".

If genetics is to play a part in health maintenance, the pertinence must be recognised by the profession and public alike. "Control of Hereditary Disorders" reviews the burden of genetic disease, screening for genetic disorders and genetic counselling.

Other topics covered are "Reproductive Toxicity of Environmental Agents", "Labour-Management aspects of occupational risk" and "Design and Analysis of Case-control Studies".

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**Pteridophyta — A New Look:** By O. P. Sharma. Published by Pragati Prakashan, Meerut, 1981, pp. 278, Price: Rs. 11.60.

This book under review covers a detailed study of Pteridophytes. A well written introduction is followed by 11 chapters in which, the first 5 chapters deal with a discussion on the general topics, while the other chapters deal in detail the distribution, morphological characters and life cycle of the type forms. Emphasis is laid on the genera that are available in India. Each chapter is followed by a bibliography which facilitates further study.

Exhaustive information of Sphenopsida is given in chapter 10. In addition to a detailed description of the morphology of *Equisetum* the author has supplied up-to-date information of Indian fossil members of the Sphenopsida.

Classification of Pteridophytes is well written. A comprehensive account of the classifications adopted by Eames (1936), Cronquist Takhtajan and Zimmermann (1966), Reimers (1954) and Holttum (1971), have been discussed in detail.

The text is well illustrated with good drawings. The book is useful and the information that is given is valuable for the graduate students of Botany.

A fairly large number of misprints and grammatical errors have crept into the book. Since, such a text book is expected to be read by a large number of students, it is hoped that in subsequent editions an attempt would be made to edit the book with greater care and the thoroughly.

Despite these blemishes the book is commended to the B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Hons.) students of Botany.

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## ERRATA

Current Science, Vol. 51, No. 19 (October 5, 1982) page 932 righthand column line 5 from the top  $D_3 D_2 D_1 D_0$  should read as  $D_3 > D_2 > D_1 > D_0$ .

Figure 3 Caption: should read as follows—Temperature variation of fluorescence intensity of  $\text{LaCl}_3: \text{Eu}^{3+}$  (0.3%) for ———  $D_3$ , ———  $D_2$ , -.-.-.-  $D_1$  and -x-x-x-x-  $D_0$ .