

Jones, A., Reed, R., Weyers, J.: **Practical Skills in Biology**. - Longman Scientific Technical, Harlow 1994. 292 pp. £ 14.99.

Laboratory and field work are important components of undergraduate training. The skill required in modern practical biology are diverse, ranging from those needed to observe, draw and record accurately to those associated with operating high-tech analytical equipment. The book is designated to provide support to students during practical courses. The first chapters deal with basic laboratory techniques, measures and units, scientific approaches, ways of making notes, drawings, diagrams, and finding and using literature references. Further chapters tried to cover the standard skill required in courses of systematic botany, zoology and microbiology (obtaining specimens, identifying organisms, microscopic techniques, photography, *etc.*). From more advanced laboratory techniques the authors paid attention to light measurement, spectroscopic techniques, chromatography, radioactive isotopes and their use, polarography, manometry, centrifugation, immunological assays, enzyme studies and genetic engineering. Finally the book concerns analysis and presentation of data, using microcomputers, scientific writing and oral or poster presentation. With a such wide range of covered skills the authors could not provide a detailed recipe-like solution to every problem, but only general principles. The theory is given when necessary, but emphasis is placed on practical applications. The information is provide in a concise but user-friendly manner, presenting illustrations, examples, *etc.* According to my opinion this is a very useful textbook and its translation into Czech language is worth to consider.

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Palade, G.E., Alberts, B.M., Spudich, J.A. (ed.): **Annual Review of Cell Biology**. Volume 9. - Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto 1993. 659 pp.

The Annual Review of Cell Biology is published since 1985 by a nonprofit scientific publisher. The objective of this publication as well as other Annual Reviews (*e.g.* Plant Physiology, Genetics, Biochemistry) is to review significant developments in various scientific disciplines. The present volume reviews the following topics: cell biology of clotting, plasma membrane structure, drosophila embryo cytoskeleton, superantigens, signal dependent protein sorting, peptide bindig to MHC molecules, animal lectins, nuclear compartmentalization, cytokinese and disease, guard-cell signal transduction, B cell antigen receptor, life of the leading edge, assembly of peroxisomes, transcriptional repression of eukaryotes mesenchymal-epithelial interaction, invasion and merastasis, GTP-binding proteins and, heat shock responses.

The reviews, which all include extensive references to the literature, provide an invaluable souce of material for cell bioogists. However, most of the reviews are written in such a way, as to be valuable not only to the expert, but also to the advanced student or scientist in other fields wishing to know more about different fields of modern cell biology.

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