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BOOK REVIEW

MÜLLER, E., LOEFFLER, W.: **Mycology. An Outline for Science and Medical Students.** — Georg Thieme Publ., Stuttgart 1976. 306 pp., DM 22.80.

The paperback edition of the book is a translation of the German edition first published in 1968. In the chapter "Ecological aspects of mycology" the conditions for fungal growth and manifestations of fungi are presented. Here are included minimal requirements for fungal growth, fungal associations — symbiosis, parasitism and saprophytism, and specific requirements — nutrients, temperature, light and other factors. The chapter "Quantitative aspects of mycology" includes the estimation of total biomass of fungi, transformations of some organic substances as cellulose, chitin, aromatic compounds, lignin, keratin and other proteins. The vegetative structures and the organs of the fruiting phase of fungi and the ultrastructural features of nucleus, mitochondria, ribosomes and cell wall are discussed in chapters "Morphology" and "Ultrastructure", respectively. The utilization of nutrients and the pathways in primary metabolism are the main contents of the chapter "Metabolism". In the chapter "Genetics" mutations, heterokaryosis and parasexuality are included. The chapter "Applied mycology" describes the fungi which are useful for man as edible fungi, fungi which contribute to mineralization of some organic materials, fungi which are used in food industry, fungi which produce antibiotics and those causing plant diseases, diseases of man and animals. The most comprehensive chapter "The classification of the fungi" contains nomenclature, key, descriptions and figures of many genera and species of important fungi.

The authors of this book give an outline of the fundamentals of mycology and its more important applications. The book may be useful especially for students of natural sciences and medicine, mainly those interested in various fields of applied mycology, and as a source of general information for plant scientists.

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