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Figures at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

BUTCHER, D. N., INGRAM, D. S.: *Plant Tissue Culture*. — The Institute of Biology's Studies in Biology no. 65, Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., London 1976. Pp. 68, 1.50 Lstg.

A thin booklet by two Cambridge authors represents the 65th volume of the "Studies in Biology", which is published for the use of "teachers and students at school, college and university" by the Institute of Biology, Queens Gate, London. The edition itself covers the entire field of biology and is written in a popular form on a good professional and up-to-date level. The authors had a rather difficult task: to present basic knowledge covering the whole field of plant tissue culture in a text about ten times shorter than the usual length of contemporaneous monographs, moreover at the period of an intense development of this branch (the manuscript was completed in 1974). Therefore they could hardly avoid certain errors or inaccuracies, e.g. one cannot give complete information on the effect of growth substances on the induction of morphogenesis in cultures in a few sentences, when the results of the research in this field are still far from being unambiguous. Moreover, the year 1974 was rich in important scientific happenings; the knowledge of the proceedings of the Canadian Symposium on haploidy or of those of the World Congress of IAPTC in Leicester would cause certain changes, especially in the chapters dealing with the most modern methods, i.e. androgenesis *in vitro* and protoplast cultivation.

The text is divided in a "classical" way, according to the type of culture (Organs and Embryos; Callus Cultures; The Growth of Single Cells; The Isolation and Culture of Plant Protoplasts). The chapters on root cultures (Butcher) and plant-pathogen cultures (Ingram) are especially well compiled and give evidence that the authors have a direct experimental experience in these problems. The concluding chapter is devoted to methods. Because of its arrangement (including also instructions for simple physiological-morphological experiments) revealing pedagogical erudition of the authors, it represents the main positive quality of the booklet. In the list of the literature recommended British sources are excessively preferred. Regardless of the fact that it was published 15 years ago, the classical Gautheret's monograph should not be lacking. The quality of illustrations is mediocre; good photographs would well substitute for some of too schematic, space-wasting pictures (e.g. cell types from the carrot culture).

A conclusion may be drawn that the booklet gives a good example to specialists how to inform briefly and in a popular form of a wide problem; for laics it is an introductory literature of a good quality. If further publications of the series mentioned will be of this professional and formal level (some of the titles are indeed attractive for a botanist), British students and teachers are to be envied, indeed.

Z. OPATRŇÝ (*Praha*).