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BOOK REVIEW

DEAN, R. T.: *Lysosomes*. — Studies in Biology No. 84. — Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. London 1977. Pp. 54. Paperback £ 1.50, hard covers £ 3.00.

In the series "Studies in Biology", published by the Publishing House E. Arnold, useful monographs have appeared since several years ago, where particular subjects of contemporaneous biology are compiled on a few tens of pages. The series is published in cooperation with the Institute of Biology, a working association of specialists in various branches of biology. This cooperation apparently involves the selection of both subjects and authors. Among more than 80 volumes already published both excellent and less successful titles can be found. In comparison with others which were available to me, this booklet on lysosomes would not belong to the best ones. Whereas certain subjects can be treated easily, the problematics of lysosomes is very difficult. In spite of this I think that certain parts could have been elaborated in a different way, or, in my opinion, better. The division itself of the booklet is not quite logical. It should have been pointed to the usefulness of combination of the biochemical and morphological approaches, the cooperation of de Duve and Novikoff being a textbook example. The existence of extralysosomal hydrolases is generally admitted nowadays. In my opinion, in the part on the immunocytochemical identification of lysosomes such elementary explanation of immunological principles was unnecessary. Both in the text and literature the problematics of lysosomes in plant cells is practically neglected. I miss especially a linkage of the interpretation of lysosomes to the conception of vesicular formations in the cell, to the notion of cell membrane dynamics and other general principles of cell organization. I think that in spite of these reservations the book will fulfill what is expected from it by the publishers, author and, of course, also by readers.

K. BENEŠ (Přaha)