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BOOK REVIEW

SAUER, H. W.: ENTWICKLUNGSBIOLOGIE. Ansätze zu einer Synthese. — Springer Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York 1980. 328 pp., 228 figs. Soft cover DM 39,—, approx. US $ 23.10.

When reading the book by professor Sauer I became sure, that my task is to simply inform the readers of Biologia Plantarum about it, not to review it in detail, concerning *e.g.* the particular cases of developmental phenomena given in section one.

My position thus became simple. I could refer to statements on the back cover of the book and declare that all of them are true. Since the book is not available to all the readers of our journal, I will repeat here the most important points.

The work is not a textbook. It is an attempt to summarize the present knowledge of the process of development (which is a great task). The book is divided into three sections. In the first, comprising most of the book, many different cases of developmental processes are brought together. In section two the most prominent investigators in the study of development are enumerated. The third section includes three general and theoretical theses, characterizing *status questionis* and the arguments in favour and against them. Three points seem to be mentioned. 1. Attempts to cover different developmental systems including plants (though to considerably smaller extent). 2. Efforts to underline the participation of non-biologists in the development of contemporary developmental biology. 3. Decision to leave unsolved questions without answer (which anticipates active role of the reader). The book reflects the decline of the optimism of early molecular biologists to govern the problem of development and growth.

It is a pleasure for me to recommend the book to the people seriously interested in developmental biology.

K. BENEŠ (*Praha*)