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### BOOK REVIEW

SCHWOERBEL, J.: EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE LIMNOLOGIE. 5th Ed. — G. Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart 1984. 233 pp., 69 figs., 32 tables. DM 17.80.

The series of red-coloured paperbacks “Uni-Taschenbücher für Wissenschaft” is produced by seventeen publishing houses from the F. R. G., Switzerland and the U.S.A., with branches in other countries. It presents very useful brief textbooks, which are mostly written by expert university teachers, and are widely used by students in many countries. This wide publicity helps to prepare new editions which are up-to-date and from which the errors are usually removed.

The reviewed booklet already reached its 5th edition (first edition in 1971!), which shows its quality and usefulness. In the first nine chapters it brings all the necessary basic facts on freshwater biology. The introductory three chapters are rather brief: they place limnology into the system of science, give the outlines of its history, and deal with circulation of water, age and genesis of rivers and reservoirs (with interesting lists of global water balance and fresh water reservoirs larger than 1000 km<sup>2</sup>). Chapters 4 and 5 deal with physical properties of water and water reservoirs also including the distribution of radiation and temperature, and principles of water movement). Chapter 6 deals with individual types of biological communities in waters, while the next two chapters are on the respective metabolic processes of these communities. In Chapter 7 the contents of dissolved gases and inorganic and organic substances are reviewed, with special attention to oxygen content related to photosynthetic activity, balance of photosynthesis and respiration, and diurnal and depth fluctuations of these characteristics. Chapter 8 deals with production, consumption and destruction: in this relation the dependence of photosynthetic production of photosynthetic bacteria, algae and higher plants on environmental factors (irradiance, temperature, CO<sub>2</sub> content, mineral nutrition, etc.), time of year, and oligotrophic, eutrophic, etc. types of the reservoir is discussed, as well as the relationships of primary and secondary production, importance of various types of bacteria for the resulting production and existence of specific metabolites in water, and the calculations of final production balance of the reservoir. Chapter 9 deals with applied limnology, especially with sewage treatment and pollution of water.

The last three chapters increase the value of this brief textbook by an excellent glossary of terms (Chapter 10), a voluminous list of references (divided into general textbooks and monographs, main limnological journals, and references to cited papers), and a good subject index (which includes also the scientific names of organisms).

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