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Figs. 4 and 6 at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEWS

COSSINS, A. R., SHETERLINE, P. (ed.): *CELLULAR ACCLIMATIZATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE* (Society for Experimental Biology Seminar Series 17). — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1983. 254 pp. £ 29.50.

The series "Symposia of the Society for Experimental Biology" is well known to scientists not only in our country. Less known — if at all — is the series "Society for Experimental Biology Seminar Series." I mean the series, not single volumes which are common as, for example, the material on the cell cycle edited by John. The book I have read belongs to the latter of the above mentioned series, which differs from the former as much as a seminar differs from a symposium. If we consider the titles of the books edited in this series, it is quite obvious that they deal with topical problems. Individual volumes — as far as I know them — are characterized by a high quality of individual contributions and entire thematic sets. The book under review does not lag behind the other volumes. In spite of this, I would like to point out that the term acclimatization in the title is not entirely suitable: acclimatization is involved in most of the cases dealt with, but not in all of them. The term adaptation would be more suitable in my opinion, but some authors would object against its use (*ex definitione*). The book namely includes not only the effects caused by changes in temperature, but also by xenobiotics, osmotic relations, etc. It only deals with animal objects what is a great pity. Besides, it only includes references of literature written in English. But in general, the book demonstrates that it is not only possible to study this theme on the cell level, but that such an approach is suitable and perspective. This volume should be studied not only by physiologists, but also by those interested in cell biology.

K. BENEŠ (*Praha*)

WELCH, R. M., GABELMAN, W. H. (ed.): *CROPS AS SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS FOR HUMANS*. (ASA Special Publication Number 48). — Soil Sci. Soc. Amer., Crop Sci. Soc. Amer., Amer. Soc. Agron., Madison 1984. 89 pp. \$ 12.75.

This publication is a compilation of papers presented at a symposium held at the 1982 annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America in Anaheim. Individual papers analyse some of the problems associated with plants as sources of the nutrients for people. It is emphasized that plant products are not only important sources of carbohydrates and proteins, but also of vitamins, minerals, essential fatty and amino acids etc. On the other hand plants contain the so called antinutrients — compounds or elements that adversely affect digestion, absorption or utilization of nutrients. The dependence of the nutrient composition of crops on the environmental conditions, especially on soil fertility is also shown. Further, the possibility of changing the nutritive value of plants through cultural practices and breeding is discussed.

This book will be a valuable source of information to researchers, teachers and students in agronomy, as the improvement of nutritive quality of plant products becomes an important agricultural strategy.

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