

PREFACE TO THE GERMAN EDITION

The experimental analysis of development has become an indispensable part of Biology. Very many of those whose attitude towards the fundamental problems of Biology is important are still quite unaware, however, of the problems and conclusions of this branch of study. This applies particularly to medical men. Certain results of outstanding importance have indeed become known, but there is far from being any general comprehension of the real significance of analytical embryology. Often, indeed, we find that the words "experimental embryology" and "analysis of development" convey nothing of the ideas for which they stand. Yet there is perhaps no other branch of Biology which leads the student so directly to fundamental questions concerning the living organism.

This lack of knowledge is partly accounted for by the fact that there is no short book which, while covering the whole field of investigation, presents concisely its great problems rather than its particular results. Considerations of time alone would prevent the readers with whom we are concerned from lightly undertaking the more comprehensive works on the subject.

It seems, too, that there is need of a book of moderate size for those students of Biology who are fortunate enough to be able to study the subject more fully afterwards in the laboratory and the lecture-room; and the need is naturally greater in the case of students who have no such opportunity.

The present book was written to meet these requirements, and it should not be read as a substitute for the more comprehensive works which it cannot replace. It is intended to serve as an introduction only; but as such it may perhaps help to awaken a growing interest in experimental embryology.

8 EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT

In view of the purely didactic purpose of the book, it was considered best to omit from the text all references to literature and original papers. If these are required they will be found in full in my *Lehrbuch der Experimentalzoologie*, and in the other works mentioned at the end of the present book.

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BRESLAU,

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