

The Chemistry of Life

EDITED BY JOSEPH NEEDHAM

'... a welcome addition to a sparsely covered area of the history of science. It is the outcome of a course of lectures given at Cambridge about ten years ago, and although they deal very largely with the developments of biochemical concepts in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the background is sketched in by Dr Joseph Needham in a scholarly and far-ranging introduction. He traces the origins of these concepts not only in the writings of the Greek philosophers, but taking in also the great contributions provided by the Arabic, Indian and Chinese cultures. Seven of the lectures are by eminent biochemists who have covered the early growth and development of their own fields, including some fascinating and intricate sketches of some of the early pioneers of biochemistry. The eighth, dealing more generally with the foundations of modern biochemistry, is by a professional historian of science.'

Times Literary Supplement

Natural History of Infectious Diseases

SIR MACFARLANE BURNET and D. O. WHITE

'The volume, of modest and appropriate size for an introductory textbook, remains one of the clearest and most stimulating accounts in print. The aim of the authors, namely, to treat disease as essentially an ecological problem and to deal with the bacteria and viruses that cause infectious diseases in the light of their evolutionary adaptation to the respective hosts, primary and secondary, is superbly achieved.

The epilogue, regarding the possible effects upon epidemic disease of a major nuclear war and of possible microbiological warfare, affords a chilling endpiece to a perfectly organized and exemplary treatise.'

Quarterly Review of Biology

'The book is packed full with information and stimulating ideas.'

British Medical Journal

Cambridge University Press

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