

INTRODUCTION

To the Second Edition



Vernon Stiers and I were grateful for the acceptance of the first edition, which appeared under the title of *Biology: Observation and Concept*. Criticisms and suggestions from users of the first edition have been important in developing this new edition. In addition to the anonymous readers of the draft, to whom I am tremendously indebted, I thank my wife and Kathryn Hamilton, Linda Strause, Mark Lowenstein, and David Cook for careful reading that has saved me from many an error.

Examination of the book will instantly reveal that it has been vastly improved by the art work, which is the product of thoughtful design and execution by Dr. Larry Jon Friesen and Margaret Day, assisted by Charles Parmely.

Science, it goes without saying, has progressed between editions, providing the agreeable task of explaining new discoveries to replace old errors. However, the world situation as regards problems of biological significance has regressed. We have, therefore, not only corrected errors but have greatly increased our emphasis on those phases of biology that

specifically relate to the human condition. Unfortunately, it remains a sad reality of teaching that what are plain facts to the teacher do not necessarily produce plainly required changes in the world. Thus, although it is well known that the easiest way to eliminate about half of all environmentally caused cancer is to stop cigarette smoking, the habit persists. Or, although nearly everyone knows the message written in human population data, the world growth curve continues its upward swing. Certainly there is more to such problems than simple biology, but I hope that an occasional student will appreciate the lessons retold here and, perhaps persuaded by the biology, may add his or her effort to the cause.

Vern Stiers lived long enough to take great and significant interest in preparations for the writing of this edition. He was a splendid teacher and this book suffers for lack of his masterful touch. His wife, Velma, was a major help with preparation of the manuscript.

J.F.C.