

Plant Morphogenesis (review)*—Professor Sinnott has made many original contributions to the causal study of plant form and the breadth of his botanical interests is well known. It is not surprising, therefore, that his textbook on morphogenesis has a wide coverage and that there is an initial insistence that the development of form is the result of normal growth. There are three sections to the book: 1, Growth (pp. 11–94); 2, The phenomenon of morphogenesis (pp. 95–302); 3, The morphogenetic factors (pp. 303–460). The bibliography is extensive (66 pages), as befits an avowed work of reference. There is a name index of 11 pages, which might surely have been incorporated with advantage and economy in the bibliography, by adding after each reference the pages where a paper is discussed. The subject index (12 pages) is perhaps not as complete as the text deserves. The single entry for “evolution” (p. 1) takes no account of the discussion on natural selection and morphogenetic systems (p. 453), nor is this indexed under selection. Similarly the discussion on “spiralicity” (p. 450) has escaped entry, despite the word being italicized.

The book contains a mass of carefully organized information. The weight of this makes continuous reading difficult and the style is not altogether stimulating. Once, however, a student has mapped out his own line of attack he will find this an invaluable work of reference, and copies belonging to lecturers in this field will soon be well thumbed.

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* *Plant Morphogenesis*, by E. W. Sinnott. New York. McGraw-Hill. 1960. Pp. x + 550. Illustrated. Price £4 17s.