

Iowa Science Teachers Journal

Volume 2 | Number 3

Article 23

1965

Review - Laboratory Manual, Basic Life Science

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Recommended Citation

TePaske, E. Russell (1965) "Review - Laboratory Manual, Basic Life Science," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 2 : No. 3 , Article 23.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol2/iss3/23>

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In general, there are both those programs which are course oriented and those that are centered around a research participation experience.

A national brochure can be secured by writing to Secondary School Programs, Special Projects in Science Education, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550.

Hawkeye Science Fair

Dean Stroud, Director of the Hawkeye Fair has announced that the 1965 dates have been set for April 8 and 9. It will be held as usual in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. The 1965 entry blanks became available on November 14. All teachers interested in application materials should write to Dean Stroud at Amos Hiatt

Junior High School in Des Moines.

FORD-FSAA Program

A large percentage of the science clubs of Iowa should be affiliated and chartered with the Future Scientists of America organization. The cost of the affiliation is based upon the size of the club. Regardless of this cost, the services rendered and the exceptional opportunities for your students are well worth it. There is still time to secure the information concerning the Ford-FSAA Program by writing to NSTA, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Experimental results must be completed and written up by the end of March if your students are to be participants in the 1965 program.

REVIEWS

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Laboratory Manual: Junior High School. Ploutz, Paul F. et. al. (1964). **Laboratory Manual, Basic Life Science**, Syracuse, N.Y.: L. W. Singer Company, Inc. 124 pp. Price: \$1.28 (?).

High schools and colleges alike are challenged again to review course content in Life Sciences in light of this "forward looking" science course at the junior high school level. This manual synthesizes traditional and experimental life science activities into 31 functional laboratory activities—two few, perhaps, but their quality is excellent. Viewed singly each exercise in the series is conceptual; considered collectively, considerable integration is apparent, viz: 4 studies are concerned directly with temperature variables, but 15 others bear inherent temperature variables, light as energy is directly studied 3 times, but indirectly 10 others, etc. A further strength is that due emphasis is given the physical basis of life.

In no sense could this manual be considered a watered down botany-zoology approach, a fill-in-the-blanks workbook, or a maize of unobtainable apparatus—equipment requirements are minimal. Not least of the advantages of the manual are suggestions following each exercise for independent study or for research concerning similar or related topics, thus providing an teachers who choose to use such an individualization of instruction for those proach. Because the manual is investigative in nature, it commends itself equally well for the good or the slow learner (obviously for different reasons), and could conceivably be considered as a manual for use with slow learners in biology at the high

school level. Though appropriate also for average or better high school biology students, no dearth of such materials exists.) Singer Company's **Basic Science Series** seems to be excellent throughout—a likely choice for a junior high school science program.

Resource Unit: Elementary School Microbiology for Elementary School Children. (1963) Curriculum Development Series No. 9, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Department of Public Instruction. Price \$2.1.

This is a well-written unit, developed for use in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades of the Pennsylvania Public Schools. The unit has an excellent teacher's background section that includes many helpful hints on conducting the unit. The unit is investigative—students do much measuring, observing and graphing. The materials used are inexpensive and for the most part are easily obtainable. The unit does use the words "mold" and "fungi" interchangeably which may be the cause of some confusion and on page 9, in experiment VII, one should be sure to use distilled water instead of tap water.

To keep the student's interest high I would like to recommend that the teacher read the book, **EPIDEMIC DETECTIVES**, a series of well-documented, exciting cases by Fred Warshofsky. This book consists of histories from the files of the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the U.S. Public Health Service. The book can be purchased for \$3.35 from the Scholastic Book Services, Scholastic Magazines, New York, New York. —A. C. Haman, State College of Iowa.