

however, impossible to know from a homozygous standard phenotype.

The author is grateful to C.S.I.R., New Delhi, for awarding a Senior Research Fellowship and to Prof. P. N. Bhaduri and Mr. S. Dana for their interest in this study.

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REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS

Linear Algebra. By Prof. Serge Lang. (Addison Wesley Publishing Company, Inc., 10-15, Chitty Street, London, W. 1), 1966. Pp. x + 294. Price \$ 7.00.

The present book is meant as a text for a one-year course in algebra at the undergraduate level, during the sophomore or junior year. It starts with the basic notion of vectors in real Euclidean space, which sets the pattern for much that follows. Examples and special cases are worked out in abundance, and abstractions are developed slowly.

Examples from calculus are given throughout, and in some sense, the book is a completion of the limited amount of algebra in the author's *A Second Course in Calculus*. A chapter treating the tensor product and the alternating product appears in the text. C. V. R.

Discharge Patterns of Single Fibres in the Cat's Auditory Nerve. By Nelson Yuan-Sheng Kiang. (The M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass. 02142), 1965. Pp. xvii + 154. Price \$ 8.75.

This monograph represents a systematic attempt to describe in a quantitative manner the electrophysiological response in the peripheral auditory nervous system. A closely written report of important work, its publication has been eagerly awaited by other investigators in the field of hearing. The technical excellence of the experiments and the great amount of valuable data make this, indeed, a significant study. Virtually none of the data incorporating the use of modern computer techniques have been previously published.

The purpose of this research was to discover how the mammalian auditory nerve describes

sounds by examining the patterns of discharges in single fibres of the auditory nerve in response to controlled acoustic stimuli. The research itself was conducted on healthy adult cats but should have important bearing on the study of human hearing.

The titles of the chapters contained in this monograph are as follows: 1. Introduction; 2. Methods; 3. Spatial Organization of the Auditory Nerve; 4. Response Patterns to "Standard" Clicks; 5. Response Patterns in Relation to Changes in Click Level, Polarity, Duration, and Rate; 6. Response Patterns to Noise and Tonal Stimuli; 7. Tuning Curves; 8. Spontaneous Activity; 9. Responses to Combinations of "Simple" Acoustic Stimuli; 10. Discussion. C. V. R.

International Review of Cytology (Vol. 19). Edited by G. H. Bourne and J. F. Danielli. (Academic Press, New York and London), 1966. Pp. ix + 419. Price \$ 17.00.

The scope of this volume is indicated by the list of the chapters mentioned below: 1. "Metabolic" DNA: A Cytochemical Study, by H. Roels; 2. The Significance of the Sex Chromatin, by Murray L. Barr; 3. Some Functions of the Nucleus, by J. M. Mitchison; 4. Synaptic Morphology in the Normal and Degenerating Nervous System, by E. G. Gray and R. W. Guillery; 5. Neurosecretion, by W. Bargmann; 6. Some Aspects of Muscle Regeneration, by E. H. Betz, H. Firket, and M. Reznik; 7. The Gibberellins as Hormones, by P. W. Brian; 8. Photoaxis in Plants, by Wolfgang Haupt; 9. Phosphorus Metabolism in Plants, by K. S. Rowan. C. V. R.