
BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

TO THE EDITOR:

The need for a comprehensive abstracting system is well recognized by medical and biological workers, since the cost and effort involved in reading all current periodical literature are beyond the means of any single individual. It is unfortunate, therefore, that the abstracting service of most value to biological workers, the publication entitled *Biological Abstracts*, has not been supported adequately by either biological societies or individual workers. Part of this difficulty has been the price of the entire service, for all fields of biology, when the individual worker feels

that only part of this material is of immediate value to him. Having accepted the responsibility of abstracting for this periodical the articles which appear in *THE JOURNAL*, I would like to inform its readers of a change of policy that has recently been made.

During the early years of its activities *Biological Abstracts* was subsidized by liberal grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and other sources. The extensive experience gained during this experimental period resulted in various improvements in the service, to the end that the publication has become an efficient, rapid medium in covering current biological and medical literature. The support of the Rockefeller Foundation has now been withdrawn, however, and it is necessary for the service to become self-supporting.

In an attempt to make *Biological Abstracts* of wider service to workers generally, and incidentally to give the individual the benefit of a comprehensive abstracting service in the fields in which he is most interested, at the lowest possible cost, a new plan of publication for 1939 has been evolved. The complete journal will be published as before, in monthly issues of an annual volume, priced at \$25 for individuals and institutions alike. In addition, separates relating more limited fields will also be issued monthly, consisting of parts of the complete journal prepared under separate covers. It will be possible to offer these at a substantial reduction from the price of the complete volume. The complete annual index will be sent to all subscribers to any of the sectional parts.

Five sectional parts are offered to subscribers for 1939. These are:

I. General Biology (general biology, biography-history, bibliography, evolution, cytology, genetics, biometry and ecology). \$4.00.

II. Experimental Animal Biology (animal physiology, nutrition, pharmacology, pathology, anatomy, embryology, and animal reproduction.) \$9.00.

III. Microbiology and Parasitology (immunology, bacteriology, viruses, parasitology, protozoology, and helminthology). \$5.00.

IV. Plant Sciences (phytopathology, plant physiology, plant anatomy, paleobotany, systematic botany, agronomy, horticulture, forestry, pharmacognosy, and pharmaceutical botany). \$6.00.

V. Animal Sciences (paleozoology, parasitology, protozoology, helminthology, systematic zoology, and economic entomology). \$6.00.

Of these, parts II and III offer leprosy workers a comprehensive abstract service of fields related to their work, at a reasonable

price. They, in conjunction with the abstracts that appear in the Current Literature section of THE JOURNAL will give a thorough review of literature of interest to all who are engaged in leprosy work.

This plan of publication of *Biological Abstracts* does not represent a return to the specialized, narrow type of abstracting journal. In this added service an opportunity is offered to workers who are interested in only a few parts of the periodical; but with the support of these workers, who would otherwise be contributing nothing to this necessary phase of handling current biological and medical literature, it will be possible to continue the publication of the entire journal.

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