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OF THE CELL**

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THE LIFE OF THE CELL

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PREFACE

It is the aim of this little book to consider in its different aspects the conception of the cell as the unit of life. Its endeavour is to tell the story of the cell in the light of recent advances, which have been many ; and furthermore to show how the new understanding of the cell throws light on each of the biological sub-sciences in turn : histology, biochemistry, biophysics, physiology, embryology, and genetics.

Limitation of space and the desire for the fullest possible integration of the material have frequently compelled the author to treat debatable hypotheses as if they were unchallenged, and to do rival theories the injustice of omitting them altogether ; for these and other faults he must simply make his apology, with the hope that the marshalling of the results of a large body of modern researches on the cell may in some measure justify itself by being useful.

D. L. T.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

General Cytology, edited by E. V. Cowdry (Chicago, 1924), is the only recent work which covers the wide field of the present little book; it is a large volume, written in symposial form by thirteen distinguished American scientists; it contains, however, little that corresponds to the discussion of the chemistry of the cell given here in Chapters II and III. Chapters I and V of this volume deal with "pure" cytology, and in this field there are many books, the best perhaps E. B. Wilson's *The Cell in Development and Heredity* (New York, 3rd ed., 1925); good, also, are the books by Agar, Doncaster, and Sharp—the last-named distinguished by its emphasis on the plant kingdom. The discussion of surfaces and colloids in Chapter II is taken largely from Freundlich's monumental *Colloid and Capillary Chemistry* (London, 1926), and of many smaller works on the subject the same author's *Elements of Colloidal Chemistry* (London, 1925) is one of the best; but as a whole Chapters II and IV are modelled on a splendid book by Höber, *Physikalische Chemie der Zelle und der Gewebe* (Leipzig, 6th ed., 1926), unfortunately not translated into English. Chapter III is pure biochemistry, and reference should be made to the text-books of that subject; Robertson's *Principles of Biochemistry* is planned with special reference to the cell. Bayliss's *Principles of General Physiology* (London, 4th ed., 1924), a book of very wide scope, may be turned to for an expansion of the three centre chapters of this brief survey of the field.

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