

## BOOK REVIEW

**HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY, The Mechanism of Body Function.** By Arthur J. Vander, James H. Sherman and Dorothy S. Luciano., The McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. Ltd., pp. 624, 1975., Price Rs. 39.00.

This is one of the rare good books on human physiology. Unlike many other texts, this book does not clutter its pages with all kinds of data of facts and figures, but aims at providing a conceptual basis for an understanding into the working of human body. The arrangements of the topics dealt with is unconventional and original in approach. As a teacher of physiology, I am in entire agreement with the approach of these authors to the subject as based on certain themes which in the words of the authors are: (1) all the phenomena of life, no matter how complex, are ultimately describable in terms of physical and chemical laws; (2) certain fundamental features of cell function are shared by virtually all cells and in addition, constitute the foundation upon which specialisation is built; (3) the body's various coordinated functions - circulation, respiration, etc., result from the precise control and integration of specialised cellular activities, serve to maintain relatively constant internal composition of the body, and can be described in terms of control systems similar to those designed by engineers.

The book is written in simple and precise language. It is a profusely illustrated text; the illustrations are wisely picked and always convey a meaning or a concept.

It is an excellent preliminary text for students of medical, nursing and allied professions.

S. K. MANCHANDA

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