Review of *Modern Biological Principles* by A.M. Winchester; Van Nostrand, 1965

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such as Watson and Crick’s genetic code theory are presented, the instructor is left the task of impressing students with the full scientific and historic significance of these ideas. But a modern biology teacher should, I think, always feel responsible for adequate performance of this task and “Modern Biological Principles” furnishes an excellent basis for discussions of the impact of Darwin, the atomic bomb, and Watson and Crick on biology.

Perhaps as important as the modern approach is the illustrative material of this book. The photographs are, in general, quite impressive and give the reader views of living organisms that enhance his understanding. The diagrams, however, are often not of such high educational quality. Certain diagrams, e.g., those depicting RNA function and the entry of foods into the energy releasing metabolic pathways, may not add significantly to a student’s understanding of these phenomena.

In general, the book does not go deeply enough into biology to serve as a text in an upgraded introductory course for majors in the life sciences. “Modern Biological Principles” is, however, ideal for a beginning course for non-majors, and would be an outstanding book for advanced courses in biology at the high school level.

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