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MUTATIONSFORSCHUNG IN DER VERERBUNGSLEHRE, von N. W. Timoféeff-Ressovsky. Wissenschaftliche Forschungsberichte, Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe Band 42. Verlag von Theodor Steinkopff, Dresden und Leipzig. 1937. 181 pp., 6 pls., 52 figs., 49 tables. RM 16,50.

The great importance of the scientific study of mutations has been apparent almost since DeVries first described them under this term. Yet an entirely new angle was obtained when radiation was applied in the artificial production of mutations, or more specifically so, since Muller's classic experiments of 1927. The present treatise devoted wholly to this special phase of genetics presents in convenient form an admirable and up-to-date summary. The author's researches in this field led him with others (Zimmer and Delbrück) to propose the so-called "Treffertheorie" (the probability of a hit by a photon [light quantum]) in an effort to advance the knowledge of the processes of mutation and hence proceed to a better understanding of the nature of the gene itself. Not only geneticists but biologists in general will be obliged to the author for this highly reliable and timely book.—TH. JUST.