

Lima-Cali Symposium on Cancer, 1963

International Symposium on the Control of Cell Division and the Induction of Cancer. Held at Lima, Peru, and Cali, Colombia, in July 1963. C. C. Congdon and Pablo Morichavez, Eds. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C., 1964 (order from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C.). viii + 403 pp. Illus. \$4.50.

This symposium volume consists of an introduction, 22 papers, and a summary and final discussion. Five contributions are entered under the heading "Control of Cell Division"; of these, only three actually present current views on some mechanisms that control cell division. Two papers deal with the effect of viruses on cell physiology and cell division. Due consideration is given in four articles to the proliferation dynamics of normal cell populations and to the changes induced by radiation in such systems. Five presentations are devoted to radiation-induced cancer, providing wide coverage of this section of the symposium. The discussion of chemical carcinogenesis is limited to two papers. Considerations of the geographic distribution of tumor pathology as a means of studying etiologic factors involved in carcinogenesis complete the volume.

There is no apparent effort to balance the contents of the symposium as

a whole; some of the presentations constitute reviews, others report on results of experiments. Healthy speculation, in several of the papers, seems to be warranted by the fact that information on many of the basic phenomena discussed is fragmentary, and, at times, it appears to be inconsistent. The specialist may find this monograph slightly outdated; the most recent references to the literature are dated 1963. The general reader will be stimulated by clear and competent discussions of highly specialized aspects of genetics, biochemistry, virology, cell physiology, radiobiology, and carcinogenesis.

With few exceptions, the comments that follow almost all the papers are helpful in clarifying obscure points, and in some cases contribute new information. Circadian system physiology and pathology, so pertinent to a discussion of the cell's life cycle, to the proliferative behavior of cell populations, to the radiation-response of mammals and to chemical carcinogenesis is not considered in this volume. Although several of the contributors repeatedly attempt to relate what is known of the control of cell division to the induction of cancer, it is apparent that, at present, there are many more questions than answers in the very complex field discussed in this volume.

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A Saharan Jewish Town: An Anthropological Study

No More For Ever: A Saharan Jewish Town. With appendices on physical anthropology, demography, and social structure (Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, vol. 55, No. 1). Lloyd Cabot Briggs and Norina Lami Guede. Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1964. xii + 108 pp. Illus. Paper, \$5.65.

In *No More For Ever*, Lloyd Cabot Briggs, the author of *Tribes of the Sahara* [reviewed in *Science* **131**, 1664 (1960)] and *The Living Races of the Sahara Desert* [reviewed in *Science* **129**, 1216 (1959)], and his field assistant and collaborator offer a unique account, covering both careful somato-

logical measurements and a social-anthropological analysis, of a vanished small but ancient people. They are a small colony of around 1250 Saharan Jews which inhabited the ancient city of Ghardaia, seat of the pious Mzabite Berber traders (a peculiarly inbred sect themselves, living now among sedentarized Arab nomad fighters and tribesmen). They lived there for perhaps seven centuries in a precarious balance of tensions, under customary protections, functioning as tradesmen, confined rigidly to their own *mellah* or ward, marrying, worshipping, and carrying on among themselves their own self-government, at peace, or at least at truce, with their Arab and Berber neighbors. That balance held until

the signing of the Algerian Armistice in the spring of 1962, when, with the new independence and the withdrawal of French authority, it snapped; the age-old tensions, held so long in check by ancient custom and remoteness, erupted to such menace that overnight the nearly 1000-year-old Jewish quarter came to an end, and its inhabitants withdrew, first secretly, then in a public rush, to the haven of Israel.

Briggs and Guede tell us that they had originally come to this now-vanished colony to study "as neat and tidy an isolate" of population "as one could hope to find in the entire world." What began as an exhaustive study of this isolate's physical and genetic characteristics (the specification of which in the very competent tables of measurements of the book will be of interest to students of physical type), inbreeding, and the effects of genetic isolation everywhere, became much more. As the people of the colony grew uneasy under the mounting tensions, and as the old truces of Arab, Berber, and Jew, in their ancient system of interlaced living among the three groups and their hereditary symbiotic specializations fell apart, a drama ensued which the authors follow with the acumen of the most observant sociologists and with the poignant human touches of intimate and direct participation. We can well believe that the authors turned frantically to "work . . . to salvage a record of Saharan Jewish social organization while the raw material was melting away before our eyes." That they did so salvage it is a clear gain to comparative social anthropology in general and to Near Eastern and Jewish studies in particular.

The authors are much to be congratulated for the account, both scientific and human, of the many levels of their drama. Like the physical anthropology, the social anthropology of the colony is described efficiently, sparsely, and, in view of the pressure of the drama, in surprising completeness. Briggs and Guede give here a well-conceived and well-executed study-in-detail which not only supports the brilliant and difficult survey of the Saharan population and culture Briggs has earlier supplied but complements it in its full and rewarding view of the unique and dramatic situation the book explores.

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