

evidence are provided for several possible answers to each of these questions, but it is not evident that any of the participants altered their views on these matters as a consequence of the presentations. Questions concerning the origin of immunoglobulin variability and the nature of the curious two-gene-one-polypeptide-chain arrangement presumed to control immunoglobulin biosynthesis are, for the most part, not discussed.

The chapters which follow concerning the multiple genetic loci shown to affect viral infectivity and autoimmunity in mice and concerning the possible associations between histocompatibility antigenic types in man and specific disease entities provide an interesting summary of a vast body of literature. They fail, however, to be illuminated by, or to shed much light on, the basic immunologic questions discussed earlier.

The clear-cut disagreements on several of the most fundamental issues raised suggest that much more thought and experimentation will have to be expended before a hypothetical structure can be constructed to account for all the observations. Those scientists and philosophers interested in the process by which such theoretical paradigms evolve and gain acceptance might well find this volume a useful introduction to a field in which such a process may be approaching a critical stage. They certainly would be interested in the individualistic fashion in which Melvin Cohn in the concluding section of this book constructs the conceptual framework he uses to account for the experimental data by selecting certain phenomena as central (self-nonsel discrimination), certain facts as "misleading" (thymus-independent antigens, the linkage between histocompatibility and I.R. genes), and certain hypothetical entities as indispensable (associative antibody, somatic mutations).

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