

from prehistoric fauna in the Solomons to dietary change in the Marshall Islands—that it is difficult to discern any common themes. This is partly a function of the underdeveloped state of cultural anthropology in the Pacific. But a more deliberately selective approach to the symposium could have advanced understanding of some of the major problems in Pacific ethnology and prehistory more effectively. The book does include individual papers of great interest, such as Shawcross's general discussion of the relevance of animal population dynamics to archeological reconstruction, but these would probably have achieved wider circulation if published in appropriate journals. The feeling of bitterness is enhanced by the inclusion of two papers (by Clark and Vasilievsky) identical to those by the same authors published in Fitzhugh's volume.

Despite the unequal quality of these two books they do mark a new awareness among anthropologists of the important role that seas and coasts have played in the cultural history of mankind. For that reason alone they deserve a warm welcome. They also have much to offer specialists studying human life, past and present, along Pacific, Arctic, and North Atlantic shores.

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## Regulation of Viruses

**Control Processes in Virus Multiplication.** Papers from a symposium, London, Apr. 1975. D. C. BURKE and W. C. RUSSELL, Eds. Published for the Society for General Microbiology by Cambridge University Press, New York, 1975. x, 450 pp., illus. \$27.50. Society for General Microbiology Symposia, 25.

The editors asked the contributors to this book not only to consider the biosynthetic events that occur during virus replication, but also to discuss the regulation of these processes. This attempt to come to grips with regulation of synthesis is what gives this book its greatest value. Bacterial viruses have provided the most precise knowledge of regulatory processes, and the findings concerning these viruses are described, though in a highly condensed form. The greater part of the book is concerned with animal virus systems, and there is an attempt to identify the unique regulatory mechanisms that function in eukaryotic systems. Almost all the contributions in this volume effectively present

current knowledge of biosynthetic events within infected cells. The papers by Burke and Russell, "Control of nucleic acid replication in cells infected with animal viruses," and by A. E. Smith, "Control of translation of animal virus messenger RNA," are particularly effective summaries. The paper by N. J. Dimmock, "Transport of virus macromolecules in infected cells," is of considerable interest, not because of the remarkable advances that have been made in this area, but because the subject is usually ignored. Dimmock's paper effectively pulls together data on membrane structure and information on the transport of macromolecules and illustrates the advantages of recognizable viral proteins and nucleic acids in the study of transport. Also valuable is Showe and Kellenberger's discussion of control mechanisms in virus assembly. Although solid progress has been made in research on these mechanisms, particularly with T-4 bacteriophage, very few studies have been carried out with animal viruses.

Overall, the book makes good reading and does a creditable job of presenting the biosynthetic pathways that function in the synthesis of viral macromolecules. The book also includes a brief description of some of the well-defined regulatory processes that have been described in elegant studies in bacteria. Although one purpose of the book is to describe control mechanisms, it is clear that animal virologists have amassed very few data on regulatory mechanisms either in infected or in uninfected cells.

Animal virology has made remarkable advances during the past ten years through the use of techniques, such as nucleic acid hybridization, that enable the investigator to examine viral processes separately from cellular processes. If virologists hope to understand the regulation of viral processes, however, they will have to deal with cellular processes instead of treating them as background noise. In future symposiums on control mechanisms, it is likely that there will be a heavier emphasis on the cell and the interactions of viruses with cells.

A deficiency of the book is that only a few figures or tables are used to present data or illustrate models. This approach may be appropriate, however, for readers who are working in the broad field of virus multiplication. This is also a good book for someone who is thinking of working with animal viruses and wants to know where the field now stands.

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## Drug Actions in Bacteria

**Microbial Drug Resistance.** Papers from a symposium, Tokyo, Oct. 1974. SUSUMU MITSUHASHI and HAJIME HASHIMOTO, Eds. University Park Press, Baltimore, 1975. xvi, 566 pp., illus. \$42.50.

The majority of the 47 papers in this volume are by scientists from Japan, where the phenomenon of transferable antibiotic resistance was first discovered in 1959. In the 15 or so years since the initial discovery that plasmid-determined antibiotic resistances are transmissible in matings between bacteria, the field has expanded by leaps and bounds. The editors, who have been in the field from the start, have organized the book in a useful way.

The first of the three sections deals with the genetics and molecular biology of these transmissible antibiotic resistance factors (R plasmids). R. H. Rownd and his coauthors have contributed two papers that analyze the unusual behavior of R plasmids in *Proteus mirabilis* and show how the extraordinary capacity for alteration of the plasmids in this organism, specifically the capacity to increase the number of copies of the drug resistance genes, produces increased resistance levels in the host cells. In another paper in this section, T. Arai describes the characterization of multicopy mutants of an R plasmid found in *Escherichia coli* that may be useful as tools for the genetic analysis of R factor genomes. Such multicopy mutants were detected because their *E. coli* hosts exhibit higher resistance levels attributable to gene-dosage effects similar to those described by Rownd and co-workers in *P. mirabilis*. In other papers, N. Datta presents the criteria by which R plasmids are classified into compatibility groups and Hashimoto *et al.* report the isolation of a miniplasmid similar to that recently described by Stanley Cohen and colleagues and suitable for use as a vehicle in recombinant DNA experiments. The paper by R. Curtiss III on bacterial conjugation in minicells, which because they lack DNA can serve as useful receptacles for transferred plasmid DNA, presents useful tricks of the trade of molecular genetics, as do many of the papers.

The second section of the book deals with the epidemiology of plasmid-mediated drug resistance. The introductory paper by Tanaka *et al.* surveys the types of R plasmids isolated in Japan over the last nine years. A series of seven papers covers a variety of investigations involving *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, an im-