of teratoma cells that suggest that such cells might be useful models for analyzing tissue interactions, Nicholson *et al.* discuss adhesive interactions in tumor development, and De Petrocellis *et al.* report on the control of DNA replication via cell interactions in early development in sea urchins. The normal (Frank and Fischbach) and abnormal (Macagno) development of a functionally significant adhesive interaction, the synapse, is also discussed.

The book provides a valuable collection of papers that offer insight into the development of a number of systems. I recommend it for both students and investigators with interests in developmental biology.

BRIAN S. SPOONER Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge CB2 2QH, England

# **Plant Hormones**

Hormone Action in the Whole Life of Plants. KENNETH V. THIMANN. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, 1977. xii, 448 pp., illus. \$35.

The scientific career of Kenneth Thimann has coincided almost exactly with the vigorous development of the study of plant hormones, and, indeed, he and his students have contributed substantially to many aspects of that development. Like Dean Acheson at the United Nations, Thimann was "present at the creation"; as a young biochemist, he came into early and close contact with Frits Went, whose 1928 Ph.D. thesis conclusively established the existence in plants of the diffusible growth hormone, auxin. With Went, he wrote, in the late 1930's, a definitive monograph on the history, methodology, and state of our understanding of the physiology and biochemistry of plant hormones. First at Caltech, later at Harvard, now at Santa Cruz, he has continued his incisive exploration of auxin and other regulators of plant growth and development. In 1974, he accepted the invitation of the University of Massachusetts to collect many of his ideas, insights, and interpretations into a series of lectures surveying anew this entire enlarged field. This book, which is based on the lectures, is a valuable and highly personal narrative, in which historical, anecdotal, and experimental information are skillfully blended with literary grace and skill.

Reading the book will give the advanced student and professional worker

874

an appreciation not only of our present understanding of hormonal regulation in the higher plant, but also of stages in the evolution of our ideas. Thimann follows the plant from birth to death, starting with seed germination and proceeding chronologically through all developmental stages to maturity and the production of new seed. In the course of this intellectual journey, he gives detailed treatment to hormonal aspects of seed germination, cell enlargement, polarity, tropisms, differentiation, organogenesis, leaf and root growth, apical dominance, flowering, fruiting, senescence, and abscission. In addition, special chapters deal with the chemistry of plant hormones and concepts of their mode of action.

Thimann admits that "truly encyclopedic coverage was the last thing at which the lectures aimed"; accordingly he uses data from his own laboratory or the laboratories of his students wherever possible. He explains that "in many cases the data obtained by others could have about equally well been used, but our own materials were at hand." The result is that one does not expect or get a balanced coverage of the literature from the book; Thimann refers the reader instead to his extensively documented chapters in volume 6B of the treatise Plant Physiology, edited by F. C. Steward.

Into each personal synthesis, some error of fact, emphasis, or interpretation must inevitably creep, and this book is no exception. To take some trivial examples, Sievers, whose work on statoliths in Chara is discussed by Thimann, is not from Halle, East Germany, but rather from Bonn, West Germany; Kerns, not Carns, worked with Clark on auxin-induced flowering in pineapple; and my 1949 work on riboflavin-sensitized photoreactions was done not at Yale but at Caltech. Dealing with matters of scientific fact, Thimann states flatly on p. 33, as he has done elsewhere on the basis of experiments in his laboratory, that sucrose produces only very slight effects on the growth of excised etiolated pea epicotyl sections. But, as has been pointed out before, this ignores contrary work done elsewhere; Purves has clearly shown marked effects of sucrose on truly dark-grown pea tissue, and this has been independently confirmed elsewhere. Further, Bertsch and Hillman have shown that red light perceived by phytochrome specifically inhibits this extra growth induced by sucrose. Since the last finding might well explain the difference between Thimann's findings and those of others, one

might have expected less dogmatic treatment of the issue. In view of what we now know about auxin-mediated proton extrusion, sucrose-proton cotransport into plant cells, and the effects of phytochrome on the latter process, this matter is not trivial. Similarly, not all will agree with Thimann's interpretation of his experiments on the role of starch statoliths in the geotropism of gibberellintreated Avena coleoptiles and of the significance of "crystal bodies" in Avena and Phycomyces or with his treatment of the thorny issue of carotenoid as opposed to riboflavin as a photoreceptor in phototropism. Regarding the last issue, it would have been helpful to disentangle the question of the nature of the photoreceptor from the question of subsequent physiology; specifically, the possible role of riboflavin as a photoreceptor in phototropism is made neither less nor more probable by the fact that lateral auxin transport, rather than auxin photooxidation, occurs following light absorption, since either pigment could produce either effect. It would also have been helpful to cite at least one literature reference providing data on flavin photoreception.

No book produced in the last ten years has so successfully integrated the vast and complex literature of this field. The author and the University of Massachusetts deserve congratulations for the excellence of the product of their collaboration.

ARTHUR W. GALSTON Department of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520

### **Books Received**

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The Application of Technology in Developing Countries. Papers from a seminar series, Aug.-Dec. 1976. Robert L. Bulfin, Jr., and J. Richard Greenwell, Eds. University of Ari-

(Continued on page 914)

SCIENCE, VOL. 199

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Applied Geomorphology. A Perspective of the Contribution of Geomorphology to Interdisciplinary Studies and Environmental Management. John R. Hails, Ed. Elsevier, New York, 1977. xvi, 418 pp., illus. Paper, \$39.95.

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Fiber Bundle Techniques in Gauge Theories. W. Drechsler and M. E. Mayer. A. Böhm and J. D. Dollard, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1977. x, 248 pp. Paper, \$11.40.

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916

SCIENCE, VOL. 199

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The Year Book of Drug Therapy 1977. Daniel L. Azarnoff, Leo E. Hollister, and David G. Shand, Eds. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1977. 426 pp., illus. \$24.50.

The Year Book of Pathology and Clinical Pathology 1977. Frank A. Carone and Rex B. Conn, Eds. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, 1977. 444 pp., illus. \$25.75.

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MARINE LABORATO-RY. Ph.D. and marine-oriented research background required. Administrative responsibility for managing the Baruch field station near Georgetown, S.C. Some research. Salary of \$16,000 per year and residence on the field station provided. This is a 3year appointment. Send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three references by 20 March 1978 to: Dr. Bruce C. Coull, Baruch Institute, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

# DENDROLOGY-ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Tenure-track position with primary responsibility of teaching undergraduate dendrology. Teaching of specialized forest ecology and silviculture courses will also be required. Ph.D. required in forestry or related field. Send application and professional papers by 15 March 1978 to: Dr. Dale A. Thornburgh, Forestry Department, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521.

#### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR-MICROBIOLOGIST/ IMMUNOLOGIST

IMMUNOLOGIST Tenure-earning position in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida International University to begin September 1978. Ph.D. required with commitment to teaching and research in microbiology and immunology. Applicants should submit résumé, transcripts, statement of research interests, and three letters of recommendation by 1 March 1978: Dr. C. K. Okubo, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University, Miami, Florida 33199. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. A member of the State University System of Florida.

SCIENCE, VOL. 199