crown gall tumor inception is reviewed by R. E. Beardsley, who introduces a refreshing quantitative approach to the conceptualization of the problem. F. Meins provides further evidence for the instability of the tumor state, including its potential for reversibility, and H. N. Wood addresses himself to the factors underlying the growth autonomy of crown gall cells; of particular interest is the fact that the cell division factor elaborated by tumor cells appears to be a potent phosphodiesterase inhibitor and therefore may induce in the cancer cell elevated levels of cyclic adenosine monophosphate.

This book should be of interest to a much broader range of scientists than those specializing in oncology. For example, biologists should know something about the natural history of the genetic tumors, or the fact that the wound tumor virus is a double-stranded RNA virus capable of multiplying in both plant and animal cells. Or that on the one hand this virus may pass into the eggs of virus-bearing female leafhoppers, while on the other may entirely lose its capacity to infect insect cells if grown solely in plant tissue for a period of five to ten years. There are many other nuggets of information in this valuable book.

This is not to say that there are no shortcomings. The two authors who address themselves to this reviewer's work do so in a superficial and totally misleading way. Similarly, in the paper on genetic tumors, Näf's work is covered in two sentences (p. 143) beginning with "Näf (1958) proposed that species involved in tumorous combinations may be divided into 2 subgroups . . . ," which conveys to the reader neither the massive evidence that supports Näf's proposition, nor the fact that this was the most important conceptual breakthrough since Kostoff discovered the *Nicotiana* hybrid tumors in the first place. In the review of the early work on crown gall (p. 3) one gains the impression that it was White who was primarily responsible for demonstrating that crown gall tissue was truly autonomous—not a mere bacterial hyperplasia—whereas that conclusion had already been reached by Braun in his early work on secondary tumors. These kinds of errors probably reflect the inadequate state of communication among the plant cancer workers —whose work, after all, is not published in a few specialized journals but is instead spread all through the biomedical literature. Nor are there enough conferences to permit a profound exchange of concepts and information.

The rather backward state of the field reflects, in part at least, the ignorance and snobbism displayed by many if not most of our animal, and particularly medical, colleagues. As the editor of the series, F. Hamburger, points out in the foreword, "There remain numerous problems in clinical medicine that no amount of clinical study can solve." The last paper in this volume, by Braun, addresses itself to the relevance of plant tumor systems to the phenomenon of cancer and should be read by all oncologists to gain greater insight into such phenomena as the cellular autonomy that underlies the cancer state, and particularly into the mass of evidence, both plant and animal, that the cancer state does not involve an irreversible alteration in the genetic make-up of the cell.

TOM STONIER
Laboratory of Plant Morphogenesis, Manhattan College, Bronx, New York

Developmental Processes

Hormones in Development. Papers from a conference, Nottingham, England, Sept. 1968. MAX HAMBURGH and E. J. W. BARRINGTON, Eds. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1971. xx, 854 pp., illus. $30.

The 65 individual papers in this volume come from laboratories throughout the world and deal with a wide range of hormones in diverse systems. The volume should not be considered an all-inclusive exposition of the current status of experimentation on hormone effects on development. First, the coverage is spotty. Twenty-six of the papers deal with effects of thyroxine, largely on amphibian development and nervous system development. There are notable contributions from the Levi-Montalcini group on nerve growth factor and from Cohen on epidermal growth factor. Other hormones covered in some detail are parahormone and calcitonin, and various effects of steroid hormones on the development of the sex organs are dealt with. The second major limitation of the volume relates to the delay in publication of some three years. During that time considerable advances have been made in understanding the mechanisms of action of various hormones, including the mediation of cyclic adenosine monophosphate in the action of various of the peptide hormones and epinephrine, the pervasiveness of the existence of cytoplasmic and nuclear protein receptors for steroid hormones, and emerging studies utilizing DNA-RNA and DNA-DNA hybridization techniques, and the isolation of specific messenger RNA's to study the synthesis and utilization of various specific nucleic acids as affected by hormones during development.

Although *Hormones in Development* has certain drawbacks and should not be a primary source for beginners who wish to obtain an overview of current research in the field, it does contain some valuable information that should be useful to those students and investigators who wish, from one volume, to determine the state of the art as of 1968–69. Of particular value are those papers dealing with effects of thyroxine on amphibian development and early brain development. They represent a fine series of basic observations on thyroxine effects in these two systems. Such observations can now, one hopes, be transcribed into a more basic understanding of the molecular basis of the effects of hormones in developing systems.

ROBERT T. SCHIMKE
Department of Pharmacology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California

A Microenvironment

Ecology of Leaf Surface Micro-organisms. Proceedings of a symposium, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, Sept. 1970. T. F. PREECE and C. H. DICKINSON, Eds. Academic Press, New York, 1971. xviii, 640 pp., illus. $26.

Preece and Dickinson have edited a very significant book that deals with the relationship of microorganisms and their environment. In this case the environment is the outer skin—the phylloplane—of leaves, and the microorganisms are the numerous bacteria, yeasts, and fungi that are residents on leaf and bud surfaces.

The book includes the text of 47 papers presented at a symposium and transcripts of discussions. The papers are grouped into five sections. They include descriptions of new experimental methods and results as well as reviews of prior work.

The first section deals with the local environment and concerns the characteristics of leaf surfaces. The anatomy