

and, in my view a very important omission, no discussion of the complications in the analysis of any selection process arising from the stage at which gene frequencies are measured, recently well discussed by Prout.

ALAN ROBERTSON

Institute of Animal Genetics, Edinburgh

GENETICS. D. J. Cove. Cambridge University Press, 1971. Pp. 216. Hard cover, £3.00; Paperback, £1.40.

The appearance of yet another text for students meeting genetics for the first time is hardly likely to generate much enthusiasm among teachers. However, they would be well advised to consider the merits of the strategy displayed in this approach to the problem.

The basic ideas are introduced by reference to inheritance in haploid organisms and the examples are chosen from *Aspergillus*. There follows an account of inheritance in diploids, chromosome theory, gene mapping and gene action. Succeeding chapters deal with the structure of DNA, especially with reference to mutation, the genetics of bacteria and phage, cytoplasmic inheritance, protein synthesis and the genetic code, intermediary metabolism, the control of gene activities and finally, a brief look at the principal ideas in the genetic control of development. These various topics are dealt with in a succinct and lucid manner and there are two very useful features in the treatment, namely, the printing of technical terms in heavy type when they appear for the first time and also a chapter of problems with the answers at the back of the book.

The Author points out that the text does not pretend to be a comprehensive introduction and it makes no mention, for example, of population genetics or evolution. Every teacher has his own ideas on how best to introduce genetics to students but there is much to be said for keeping an open mind on this and anyone prepared to do so should certainly consider the approach in this text.

F. W. ROBERTSON

University of Aberdeen, Department of Genetics

THE ONGOING EVOLUTION OF LATIN AMERICAN POPULATIONS. Francisco M. Salzano (Ed.). Charles C. Thomas, Illinois, February 1971. Pp. 717. \$25.25.

Human population geneticists should be aware of this expensive book, though perhaps few will purchase it unless specifically interested in the complexities of South American anthropology, social or physical. It is a full report of a conference held in Austria in 1969 and is divided into five sections, most of the genetic aspects falling into parts 2, 4 and 5. The rich variety of every aspect of human life on that continent is emphasised on practically every page and conscientious efforts are made to order this vast wealth of information by refining classificatory and semantic practice. The science of social anthropology is, understandably, still at this descriptive stage and, less understandably, has not yet shaken off the political and moral attributes of the writer—of p. 62 for example who hopes “those in charge . . . may avoid the worst consequences of haphazard contact or mistaken policies”. The probing by detached scientists into social phenomena seems to have opened a gate through which a surge of involved sociologists has poured and is