

dull. This is partly due to the lack of colour to break up the tide of black type, and partly an apparent reluctance to use figures rather than text. It is particularly difficult to follow some of the genetic crosses when genotypes wrap around two lines. This not a difficult problem to address and many undergraduate text books do succeed in making genetics come to life with imaginative diagrams.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, I shall keep the book in my office and will no doubt find it missing when I need it,

having forced some hapless undergraduate or research student to face up to their failure to appreciate the scope of genetics.

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Books Received

PCR. M. J. McPherson and S. G. Møller. BIOS Scientific Publishers, Oxford. 2000. Pp. 288. Price £22.95, paperback. ISBN 1 85996 017 0.

The Horizontal Gene Pool — Bacterial Plasmids and Gene Spread. Christopher M. Thomas (ed.). Harwood Academic

Publishers, Amsterdam. 2000. Pp. 419. Price £69.00, hardback. ISBN 90 5702 462 4.

The Century of the Gene. Evelyn Fox Keller. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MS. 2000. Pp. 186. Price £15.95, hardback. ISBN 0 674 00372 1.