

In any case these views are still held by illiterate people all over the world. What is remarkable is that they should now be expounded in this country coupled with the name of Lysenko. And that they should be expounded under the auspices of an agency supported by national funds and intended for the publication of useful information : the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux.

C. D. DARLINGTON.

SYMPOSIUM ON RADIATION MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY. Sponsored by The Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Reprinted from *J. Cell Comp. Physiol.* Vol. 39, Suppl. 1. 1952. Pp. 128.

There are seven papers and three abstracts in this Symposium.

W. M. Dale is concerned with the evidence that X-radiation acts in causing mutations through intermediate products especially OH radicals and H atoms. Using the principle that one solution should accordingly "protect" another from X-ray damage, Dale has carried out experiments which suggest either a chain reaction or an activated state in the protector molecule.

L. H. Gray discusses the physical and biological evidence of the nature of the energy transfer from ionising particles. He points out the possible difference in regard to dispersal of damage between chromosome fragmentation and inactivation of viruses or spores. Zirkle and others attempt to show with survival curves that the latter effect is very rapid.

Hollaender and others show the effects of water content and oxygen pressure on mutation in *Aspergillus* spores. Swanson suggests that ultra-violet mutation rate is increased by nitrogen mustard pre-treatment. Newcombe proposes that bacteria should be regarded as haploid and therefore genetically irreducible. This is more of an assumption than it may seem.

C. D. DARLINGTON.

BOOKS RECEIVED

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF FERTILITY. No. III Cambridge Conference. Cambridge : Heffer. 1951. Pp. 79. 10s.

A useful discussion by 13 British and American workers of the causes of sterility chiefly human from all aspects except the genetic. A Danish visitor however gives the evidence that absence of the vas deferens is hereditary in cattle.

PFLANZENÜCHTUNG. 1. GRUNDZUGE DER PFLANZENÜCHTUNG. By Hermann Kuckuck. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter & Co. 1952. Pp. 132, illus. 10½ × 15½ cm. Paper covers.

GENERAL GENETICS. By Adrian M. Srb and Ray D. Owen. California : W. H. Freeman & Co. 1952. \$5.50 (47s.).