

doing in heredity and evolution? And have they not in fact contributed to the understanding of *Paramecium*? Surely they have explained to us the varied properties of the polyploid macronucleus and the special consequences of irradiation.

These doubts and misgivings on fundamental questions have somewhat distorted the evidence and obscured the argument of this book. Dr Beale has tried to fit the revolutionary discoveries of the American geneticists into a framework for which they themselves have no use. His purpose is genuine, his methods are rigorous and often most fruitful, but his outlook seems to have required him to throw away some of the best of what his efforts have won.

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GENETICS BIOLOGICAL INDIVIDUALITY AND CANCER. By C. C. Little. London : Geoffrey Cumberlege, Stanford University Press. 1954. Pp. 111. 20s.

This book traverses the field of cancer research with a series of somewhat disconnected but often remarkable statements. The following example is worth quoting (p. 89) :—

“When a break in linkage occurs it is called *crossing over* because during mitosis a gene exchanges place with its counterpart gene in the other member of the chromosome pair to which it belongs.”

C. D. D.