

The second section, that on "Mutagenesis, with particular reference to chemical factors" is much more coherent. It is also more fashionable for it deals with some of the more exciting advances made in recent years on induced mutagenesis in micro-organisms. But for those who like specific questions to be answered in an equally specific manner it could prove a veritable nightmare for it abounds with half-answered or unanswered questions.

The third and final section covers "Mutagens currently of potential significance to man and other species". It serves as a timely reminder that the recent thalidomide tragedy obscures a much wider and more subtle problem. But it is too long, too repetitive and too vague.

According to Francis Bacon "some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested". The covers of this book, however, include ingredients of all three kinds. But the information will not be to everyone's taste, nor will the reader swallow all the statements without some mental indigestion. Nevertheless if his stomach is strong enough to withstand these dietary inadequacies he should find this an intriguing and entertaining study in the anatomy of human understanding and misunderstanding. And in reading between the lines, as well as within them, he may be led to reflect, as I was, on Coleridge's classic quip "only the wise possess ideas, the greater part of mankind are possessed by them".

B. JOHN.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

- INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS. 2nd ed. Henry L. Alder and Edward B. Roessler. W. H. Freeman and Co. Ltd., London. 1962. Pp. 289. 32s.  
 INTRODUCTION TO EVOLUTION. 2nd ed. P. A. Moody. Harper Bros., New York. 1962. Pp. 553. 60s.  
 BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR IN CEPHALOPODS. M. J. Wells. Heinemann Educational Books, Ltd., London. 1962. Pp. 171. 16s.