

The section on Chromosomes in Development includes a number of fascinating papers. Bier and his colleagues, in an excellent paper on the metabolic behaviour of chromosomes in the insect ovary, show a clear correlation between DNA content of the chromosomes and the nutritional organisation of the ovary. These data provide strong circumstantial evidence in favour of gene multiplicity accounting for much of the difference in DNA content between insect species. In a related field, Ashburner competently reviews the control of chromosome puffing in dipteran polytene chromosomes, drawing many examples from his own work on variations in puff behaviour between stocks and between sibling species. The paper by Ohno *et al.* on the role of polyploidy in vertebrate evolution is stimulating and particularly valuable since it combines a dual approach of quantitative cytology with parallel enzymological studies.

The third section, Chromosomes in Evolution, comprises roughly one-half of the book and contains a rather varied selection of papers. Amidst contributions concerned with supernumerary chromosomes, polyploidy and chromosome evolution in various groups of plants and animals, is an interesting and complementary group of papers by Love, Smith and Zuk on the sex chromosomes of plants. This is a subject which has received little attention of late and Zuk's paper is most welcome in confirming the essential similarity of DNA replication patterns between allocyclic plant sex chromosomes and their animal counterparts.

To the reviewer, the volume's only real fault is that its resources appear to be spread rather thinly over a wide area. However, the high quality of many of the papers amply compensates for this defect and all biologists who have an interest in chromosomes (and there should be few who have none!) will find at least some of its pages rewarding.

H. J. EVANS

*Medical Research Council Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit,  
Edinburgh*

#### BOOK RECEIVED

PARASITIC PROTOZOA. J. R. Baker. Published by Hutchinson University Library, 1969. Pp. 176. 14s. (Paperback); 35s. (Full-bound).