requirements of the recombination mechanism and does not confuse the issue with the discussion of esoteric models. However, I do think that he might have mentioned that the *lac* operon is not the only genetic regulatory system.

The text continues with a brief chapter on cytoplasmic inheritance. This is not up to the standard of the rest of the book—there is too much emphasis on the nature of the implicated organelles and not enough on the genetic data implying that these organelles have genetic continuity.

The concluding chapter summarises the outstanding problems of contemporary genetics and goes on to discuss the ways in which man may control his own evolution. Here I think that the author confuses the issues of the economic and environmental consequences of excessive population growth and genetic deterioration of the race due to the salvage, by improved medicine, of unfit or deleterious genotypes. However, it is better to mention these issues than to suppress them.

There are six appendices; two of them, selected life cycles and amino-acid structures, would have been better placed in appropriate parts of the text. There are adequate references, both to original papers and books, though it should be noted that every few of the former are later than 1969.

In summary, this book is a good student text for first-year work. The style, content and the examples chosen will leave the student in no doubt that the study of genetics is both useful and relevant.

At £4·85 for the hardback edition the book is rather expensive—but in paperback it is a good buy.

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REPRODUCTION IN MAMMALS. Vol. I—GERM CELLS AND FERTILISATION (136 pp.). Vol. II—EMBRYONIC AND FETAL DEVELOPMENT (158 pp.). Vol. III—HORMONES IN REPRODUCTION (148 pp.). Ed. C. R. Austin and R. V. Short. Cambridge University Press, 1972. Price (per volume): Cloth £3·40, Paper £1·30.

These three volumes, taken together, form an excellent and highly readable introduction to mammalian reproduction. All the books are liberally illlustrated with clear diagrams and each contains five articles, by different authors, on related topics. Volume I covers the origin of the primordial germ cells, gametogenesis and fertilisation. *Embryonic and Fetal development* (Vol. II) deals with embryogenesis and implantation, sex determination and differentiation, abnormal development, and parturition. The third volume describes the hormones, including the prostaglandins, which control the reproductive process, and their roles in gametogenesis, pregnancy and lactation. The books, which are aimed at both pure and applied biologists, combine information about human reproduction with examples and data from comparative studies on a variety of other wild and domesticated species. This has been done in such a way as to enlighten not only physicians and vertebrate zoologists but also biologists with more general interests. Throughout the series the social, ecological and economic relevance of studying mammalian reproduction is emphasised.

The series is to be completed by the publication of two more volumes, one on patterns of reproduction and the other on the artificial regulation of

reproduction. If these maintain the standard set by the first three, the series deserves to be very successful, particularly in the paperback edition.

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THE ASSESSMENT OF POPULATION AFFINITIES IN MAN. Edited by J. S. Weiner and J. Huizinga. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1972. Pp. 224. £6·00.

This book contains this contribution to a symposium organised by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the International Biological Program. It was intended to stimulate consideration of the statistical techniques for analysis of population data of the kind being collected by the I.B.P. on human populations. In this the symposium has well fulfilled its aim, because the contributions in this volume give a broad and reasonably complete cover of the techniques at present available, together with illustrations.

Many of the contributions illuminate old problems or reveal new ones. Gower notes the danger of accepting correlations between different statistics at their face value, and suggests better ways of investigation. Spuhler's comparison of glottochronology with other evidence suggests that the linguists have not yet found the appropriate techniques for analysis of languages. Malyutov and his colleagues introduce population sizes into methods for phylogenetic study, although they also show that population sizes in the past can be critical as well as difficult to estimate. Hiernaux has begun to estimate the magnitude of environmental factors on anthropometric measures of similarity. Many other instructive examples could be cited.

Much of the interest of the illustrations comes from the comparison of similarities based on one class of data with those based on another. It is therefore, despite useful comments by several contributors, a pity that more attention was not given to ways of measuring congruence between data sets. But this will be a good subject for another symposium. The book is well-produced and the contributions are commendably easy to read.

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GENETICS AND EDUCATION. A. R. Jensen. Methuen. Pp. 379. £3·50.

The book is prefaced by Jensen's view of the events surrounding the publication of his Harvard Educational Review article " How much can we boost I.Q. and scholastic achievement? " The emotion accompanying the subsequent debate can be attributed only to a loss of nerve among some of those whose fundamental principles were so rudely shaken by Jensen's observations. For those who believe in " scientific detachment "the preface is salutary reading.

The preface accounts for most of the new material in a collection of annotated papers which is justified by the publishers' desire to make the HER article available to a wider audience. This paper is unparalleled in breadth