time. Throughout the book, however, the most parsimonious explanations of the data are ignored in favour of those which support his hypothesis.

If the author had not such a distinguished scientific career, having been both editor of the *American Journal of Human Genetics* and past president of the American society of Human Genetics, this book would be easier to dismiss. Although he claims no particular political allegiance or agenda, it would be naive to ignore the political purposes to which his arguments could be turned. His arguments are essentially the same as those of Galton and others who advocated eugenic theories a hundred years ago. The language may have changed from that of germplasm to molecular genetics, but the sentiments are the same and just as dangerous.

IAN JONES
University of Wales College of Medicine
Division of Psychological Medicine
Heath Park
Cardiff CF4 4XN
U.K.

Cell Cycle (Advances in Molecular and Cell Biology, 13). Michael Whitaker (guest ed.) JAI Press Ltd., London. 1996. Pp. 226. Price £69.50 (U.S. $109.50), hardback. ISBN 1 55938 949 4.

There have been many attempts to review the cell cycle field over the past two or three years. This is a difficult task, because although there are now some well-established molecular paradigms, advances are continually being made. Thus not only is a book like this one immediately out of date, but is is of course impossible to give full coverage to the field. Michael Whitaker has succeeded, whether by intent or good fortune, to circumvent these problems by presenting a book that does not attempt to be comprehensive, but rather gives a collection of quite personal viewpoints of apects of cell cycle regulation. The result is rather refreshing, and for me at least it was interesting to read.

There are two chapters on centrosomes, for example, that are each written from a clear, individual viewpoint. The first from Greenfield Sluder concentrates mainly upon studies of the centrosome cycle in sea-urchin eggs, and focuses very heavily on the work from Sluder's own laboratory. It is provocative, and yet points out many of the conflicts in the interpretation of centrosome behaviour seen from the perspective of different experimental systems. The chapter from Buendia and Karsenti has a different emphasis, not surprisingly upon the regulation of microtubule organising activity throughout the cell cycle. It gives a good concise account of this area.

Other chapters provide a pot-pourri of specialized topics. Yanagida gives a succinct account entitled 'Cell Cycle Control by Protein Phosphatase Genes', but deals almost exclusively with fission yeast genes. Hoffmann, Clarke and Draetta focus even more tightly on the cdc25 phosphatase, and Peter and Nigg examine one set of p34cdc2 kinase substrates, the nuclear lamins.

Michael Whitaker's own research interests are well reflected by the representation of the importance of calcium in the cell cycle. Tombes and Borisy give an overview of the roles of calcium in mitosis, and this is followed by a more specialized chapter on the role of calcium in the *Aspergillus* cell cycle. The importance of calcium regulation is also emphasized in Ford and Lindsay's chapter on the use of *Xenopus* cell free systems to study cell cycle regulation. It is a pity that Whitaker himself did not make a contribution by reviewing some of his own work. Perhaps he could be persuaded that this area, somewhat disproportionately under-represented in the cell cycle field, would benefit from an even greater depth of review in future.

DAVID M. GLOVER
Cell Cycle Genetics Research Group
Department of Anatomy and Physiology
Medical Sciences Institute
The University
Dundee DD1 4HN
U.K.

Books received

Feminism and Evolutionary Biology. Patricia A. Gowaty (ed.) Chapman and Hall, London. 1997. Pp. 623 Price £39.00, paperback. ISBN 0 412 07361 7.

Dysgenics — Genetic Deterioration in Modern Populations. Richard Lynn. Praeger, Westport, Connecticut. 1996. Pp. 237 Price £47.50, hardback. ISBN 0 275 94917 6.