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The introductory chapter deals with the history and perspectives on genetics in China. The early records and archaeological findings demonstrate the success of plant and animal breeding in contributing to human livelihood. Modern genetics was brought to a standstill by Lysenkoism and by the Cultural Revolution. Now genetical research is taking place both at universities and at research institutes. The present volume reviews the following topics: Flower development, Chromosome partitioning in bacteria, DNA repair in humans, Plants response to microbes and wounding, Membrane protein and assembly, Human mitochondrial genetics, Genetics of *Ustilago maydis*, *Chlamydomonas*, the green yeast, Light harvesting in photosynthesis, Polycomb and trithorax group proteins of *Drosophila*, Conservation genetics, Genetics of hereditary cancer, Ecological population genetics, *Drosophila* dorsal-ventral polarity, Coalescents and genealogy, Meiotic recombination hotspots, Human genome, Developmental networks in *Bacillus subtilis*, Homologous recombination proteins, Genetic variation and aging, Heterochromatin and gene expression in *Drosophila*, Genetic analysis of the multidrug transporter, Yeast transcriptional regulatory mechanisms, Inherited hearing defects in mice, Trinucleotide repeat expansion and human disease, Antigen processing genetics, Photosystem I and Photosystem II, and Cystic fibrosis. The Annual Review of Genetics is published since 1967 by a non-profit scientific publisher. Thus the price of this volume is comparatively low compared to other similar publications. For copies of individual articles published in the Annual Review, or copies of any article cited in the Annual Review write to Annual Reviews Preprints and Reprints, P.O.Box 4327, Burlingame, Ca 94011-4327 or e-mail address: arpr@class.org.

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