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BOOK REVIEWS

MACLEAN, N.: *Control of Gene Expression*. — Academic Press, London—New York—San Francisco 1976, 348 pp., 7.80 £.

The purpose of the book is to provide a brief review of general concepts of the control of gene expression and to describe in greater detail the particular results obtained on this comprehensive problem in a number of diverse eukaryotic systems.

The general chapters describe possible control mechanisms operating on a transcriptional and post-transcriptional level, which is followed by a brief account of our knowledge of gene expression in prokaryotes. The attention is also paid to RNA involvement in gene expression and the concluding chapter discusses the more important concepts of eukaryotic gene regulation.

The greater part of the book is devoted to description and discussion of a number of experimental systems currently used in the study of differential gene function in eukaryotes. According to the complexity they are classified into "systems involving one type of protein", "systems of limited complexity" and "systems not well understood in molecular terms".

Although the book has been written above all for university students and teachers, it will be, no doubt, welcomed by research workers interested in molecular biology as a handy source of information about the results obtained in this field with different biological material.

J. TUPÝ (Praha)

VANDEN ENDE, H.: *Sexual Interactions in Plants*. — Academic Press, London—New York—San Francisco 1976, 186 pp., 6.80 £.

The book appeared as the 9th volume of An International Series of Monographs in Experimental Botany under consulting editorship of J. F. Sutcliffe and P. Mahlberg. It is concerned mainly with biochemistry of cell interactions related to sexual reproduction in lower plants. In ten chapters examples are described in detail, including experimental procedures that were used, the mechanism of sexual differentiation and exchange of information between the mating partners in some genera of fungi, algae and ferns. The last chapter dealing with flowering plants briefly reviews the complex topic of possible interactions between pollen and the tissues of gynaecium. This volume will be especially useful to those being interested in sexual reproduction in lower plants and in general problem of biochemistry of interaction between plant cells.

J. TUPÝ (Praha)