Williams, J., Ceccarelli, A., Spurr, N.: **Genetic Engineering.** Series Medical Perspectives. BIOS Scientific Publishers Ltd., Oxford 1993. 132 pp., £ 14.00.

There are many basic textbook of gene engineering, but this is quite up-to-date and especially easy to study. It is writtenby clear-cut, simple and comprehensive style, which is found seldom. Moreover, this book has quite up-to-date conception and it contains valuable and comprehensive new information. The book has 76 illustrations which are very instructive and explain complicated problems and methods by simple way. Each chapter is followed not only by most important references, but also by a list of monographs and textbooks dealing with the problems described. The content of individual chapters is well-balanced. There are several examples of analysis of human genome, but the whole is equaly useful for anybody interested in gene engineering, independently whether he is engaged in the study of bacterial, human or plant genomes.

Shortened titles and subtitles of chapters illustrate the contents most efficiently: 1. Gene organization and expression. Gene organization and replication, prokaryotic and eukaryotic genes and their transcription, chromosome structure. 2. Gene analysis techniques I: low resolution mapping of genomic DNA, nucleic acid hybridization, gel electrophoresis, mapping genes on chromosomes, restriction enzymes. 3. Gene analysis techniques II: determining the structure of genes, DNA sequence analysis, transcript mapping, search for genes using computers, PCR. 4. Cloning in *E. coli* I: vectors and genome libraries, plasmid vectors, phage vectors, cosmids and P_1 vectors, construction and screening of genomic library. 5. Cloning in *E.coli* II: cDNA libraries, their screening, identifying genes by positional cloning. 6. Cloning in higher organisms. Cloning in yeasts, transformation of mammalian cells in tissue culture, transgenic animals, gene targeting by homologous recombination, hox and pax genes and the new genetics. 7. Future prospects.

The extent of this book allows exactly to explain the principles of all methods without going into details. The book can be recommended not only to the begginers in molecular biology, but also to all biologists, including those engaged in plant science, as the basic source book.

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