and elucidation of these solutions lies the justification for the effort expended by so many laboratories in bringing lambda out of obscurity and into prominence.

In this review it is not possible to do justice individually to the collected series of reviews presented between chapters 1 and 15 which have been referred to above. They are by acknowledged authorities and describe between them virtually the whole of lambda biology. These accounts together with their excellent bibliographies provide a full and readable account of knowledge about lambda up to the spring of 1971. The second part of the book is less easy to read, containing as it does, 37 articles by specialists describing unpublished work, but it will be invaluable to lambda biologists.

The editor has provided a useful glossary of terms and there is an excellent index. It is to be regretted that its price will put it beyond the reach of many who should read it.

S. W. GLOVER

Ecological Genetics and Evolution. Edited by Robert Creed. (Pp. xxi + 391; figures + tables. £6.50.) Oxford and Edinburgh: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1971.

The volume consists of essays in honour of Professor E. B. Ford, FRS, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Books of this type tend, deservedly, to have a bad reputation. They start off at a disadvantage because not all the obvious contributors have something worth saying at the time that they are asked to write. Rather than appear to dishonour a great man by not contributing they sometimes concoct something inferior, or rehash something recently published elsewhere. Furthermore, the essays usually consist of a number of specific research topics and general reviews that bear little relationship to one another and are written in different styles. Consequently, the editor of such a book has a Herculean task

both in choosing prospective authors and in editing their contributions.

In the present volume the editor has acquitted himself with rare distinction. He has managed to obtain essays of high quality both from internationally recognized authors and from men at the beginning of their research careers (no doubt aided by Ford's great ability to stimulate the young graduate to do exciting research). Furthermore, Dr Creed has managed to weld these independently conceived essays, differing in style and in standard, into an integrated whole. One is led from one aspect of population genetics to another without large discontinuities. One moves from a consideration of the evolution of polymorphism and adaptation to extreme environments through special aspects of stable polymorphism, industrial melanism, mimicry, and polygenic variation to the study of protein variation and the control and importance of biochemical differences in man. The last chapter is concerned with some aspects of such research in relation to the teaching of genetics and evolution.

Thus, the content of this book covers a very wide field of interest, including as it does ecological genetics (even archaeological genetics) and clinical genetics. In fact, the contents reflect rather well Professor Ford's own research (including archaeology) as shown by the bibliography of his work in the book.

Only members of that small but growing band of ecological geneticists are likely to be interested in the whole work but some of the chapters are of such a quality that they cannot be safely ignored by any population geneticist. Those interested in the medical field will almost certainly find the chapters by D. J. Weatherall, C. A. Clarke, and D. A. P. Evans the most exciting. They may also find several others that are stimulating, remembering how ecological genetics has and is contributing to the study of human genetics.

P. M. SHEPPARD

Symposium on Nutrition and Fetal Development

A 2-day symposium will be held in New York City on 13 and 14 November 1972 at the Americana Hotel, Seventh Avenue and 52nd Street. It is presented by the Institute of Human Nutrition of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (511 West 166th Street, New York, NY 10032, USA) and sponsored by The National Foundation—March of Dimes.