

genetics but their simplicity contrasts with the complex theory presented.

The merit of the book is that it presents much of population genetic theory in an alternative form, which is perhaps unfamiliar to English speaking audiences. Most of the results are derived from first principles and the proofs are clear and useful. Two theoretical forms used by French workers are explained and exploited. These are the concepts of genic and genotypic structures of the population, and the subdivision of the coefficient of relationship into its 16 logical parts. These are well described and utilized to obtain, and elaborate, some well known results. Another section which seems particularly clear and useful is on finite populations and genetic drift. The models and mathematical sophistication gradually increase throughout the book and, unfortunately, are beyond the reviewers competence.

The value of the book lies in its rather different approach and methodology and in its thorough competent review of much of the theory of population genetic structure. Despite its costs, it is a book that specialists in this field of study will not want to be without.

CHARLES SMITH

Einführung in die Immunogenetik. By Klaus Dieter Bauer. (Pp. 136; figures + tables. DM29.00.) Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer. 1973.

This monograph, published in German as one of a series from Fischer entitled 'Grundlagen der Modernen Genetik' (Foundations of Modern Genetics), aims to give a systematic presentation of human immunogenetics. Intended for biology and medical students, for research workers and medical practitioners, the book does not claim to give more than a concise outline of immunogenetics. Two introductory chapters deal with fundamental immunology and genetics, and include details of the immunological techniques specific to this branch of science. Thereafter, chapters deal with cell-surface antigen polymorphisms, particular erythrocyte antigens, soluble antigen polymorphisms—such as Gm factors and β lipoproteins—the genetics of the immune response, ontogenetic and phylogenetic aspects of immune responses, and the relationship of immunogenetics to the pathological results of incompatible transfusions, trans-

plants, and materno-fetal problems. This book presents most of the relevant information necessary for an understanding of the basic aspects of immunogenetics, it outlines principles, techniques, and brings together fields of immunogenetics often considered only in isolation. The tables and diagrams are simple, well-drawn, and descriptive; they allow unhindered access to the information and relate well to the text. The bibliography on the other hand may prove to be a disappointment to some, since as a source of references for further reading, it could have been more detailed and up to date. In spite of this, and perhaps because of it, the book succeeds in being an excellent short treatise for the beginner, in presentation, style and subject matter, without being overspecialized as many of today's monographs are. Hopefully, an English version of this book will shortly appear to supplement the knowledge of those from whom it is intended, as Dr Bauer has undoubtedly already done for his German readership.

G. M. TAYLOR

Psychiatrie. Vol. 8. *Die Erbliehen Myoklonisch-Epileptische-Dementiellen Kernsyndrome.* Edited by K. Diebold. (Pp. ix + 245 figures. DM98.00.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer. 1973.

This volume is concerned with a small area of neurology, epilepsy accompanied by dementia and myoclonus. The disorders falling into this category have long been suspected to be heterogeneous. Dr Diebold has made a careful analysis both of cases collected from the literature and also those he has ascertained from hospitals in the Federal Republic of Germany. As might have been expected, his analysis has revealed further heterogeneity, thus enabling the disorders to be more exactly classified and thereby a more accurate prognosis given for each of the diagnostic categories.

The book is carefully documented and contains a full and painstaking review of the literature with valuable new case material. It will long remain an essential volume for those concerned in research on these varieties of illness, and will be of value to neurologists for practical purposes of diagnosis and also for the instruction in genetics that will incidentally result.

R. T. C. PRATT