identify the 5% or so of the human genome which is coding. This issue was addressed at the Third International Workshop on the Identification of Transcribed Sequences, held in New Orleans on 2–4 October 1993 and the proceedings of which were recorded in this book.

All the main gene identification techniques are covered, with sections on classical approaches, hybridisation based methods such as direct cDNA selection, exon trapping, computer based approaches, and oligonucleotide fingerprinting of cDNA libraries. For the most part the chapters are well written and, although this is not intended to be a laboratory manual, the methods sections are fairly detailed. Because this is a collection of reports, rather than a single author overview, it lacks cohesion and I would prefer to have seen a little more critical assessment of the various methods by the editors in the discussion section at the end of the book. Basically each method works, but with a few problems. Nonetheless, I think that this book will be very useful for any researcher working on gene identification.

If you are involved in a positional cloning project and are wondering which is the best gene identification method to choose, this book will not provide the answer. If, however, you have already chosen a gene identification method and are looking for examples of the "collective experience" you will find this volume therapeutic.

J DAVID BROOK

Molecular Genetics of Inherited Eye Disorders. Editors A F Wright, B Jay. (Pp 528.) Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers GMBH. 1994.

This book is part of a series which covers new developments across the entire field of genetics; the series documents in an up to date fashion the molecular genetics of a range of disorders of the eye in humans and other animals.

In the book there is a very useful introductory section on principles and techniques which gives a genuinely lucid account that is clear even to a molecular genetic ignoramus such as I! The authors succeed in their aim to provide "a simple guide for the perplexed". This is followed by a section on *Drosphila* retinal degeneration mutants which flies a basic science flag and is important in that *Drosophilia* studies have been pivotal in the analysis of mutations affecting eye development.

The bulk of the book is largely a back to front (retina to anterior segment) layout of chapters. The authors are a mixture of clinical and molecular geneticists, ophthalmologists, and paediatric ophthalmologists; they take each subject and go into it in considerable detail and authority with some chapters written only by geneticists concentrating purely on genetics and some chapters written in collaboration with clinicians.

The editing, as far as one can tell from the finished article, has been very good: although the book is a mixture of American English and English English style and spelling, there is nothing that whould excruciate either an American or English reader. This cohesiveness could be the editing alone but I suspect that all the chapters were also well written in manuscript form. Despite the diverse nationalities of the authors and despite being written from different perspectives, the editors have made this a very consistent book, although naturally it is not all encompassing. Inevitably most of the chapters contain references mainly before 1992, but for nearly all readers this will not be important.

The editors have put together a really good glossary and the index is excellent.

Who will buy it? I expect that a lot of libraries, genetics, and ophthalmology departments will want it for its genetic content and it will be bought by a number of paediatric ophthalmologists and ophthalmic geneticists for their personal use.

In summary, even ophthalmic genetics can be a good read!

DAVID TAYLOR