recent advances have been dealing with the interaction of antibody with hormones and viruses, and still more recently it has been demonstrated that RNA and DNA themselves can be considered antigens, and one can expect that certain of the antigenic groups are specific sequences of bases in the double helix. As one of the contributors points out, if this finding is confirmed, this will be a vital and valuable key for the study of the genetic code and for its mode of transcription. In addition to reports on the results of antigenic studies, this symposium also brings many details on technique, for example, modern methods of protein chemistry which allow investigation of the antigenic sites of proteins.

H. LEHMANN


The great success of genetic analysis for the bacterial viruses (phages) now spurs on the animal virologists. In a recent issue of the British Medical Bulletin devoted to medical virology, Dr. P. D. Cooper outlines the methods of genetic analysis available in the study of animal viruses—recombination, complementation, and physiological functions—but concludes that good genetic markers are still lacking. 'Temperature-sensitivity' is, as yet, the only demonstrably universal marker for animal viruses and has been used in the study of pox, polyoma, and two arboviruses—Sindbis and Semliki Forest. The other universal marker for phage is 'suppressor-sensitive'; but attempts to find analogous animal virus systems have not, so far, been wholly successful, though they have been tried for rabbit pox and herpes virus strains. The author concludes that 'information from genetic analysis should greatly expand during the next five years'.

R. J. C. HARRIS


This is the first volume of the third edition of a three-volume handbook which ranges over the whole of evolution. The second and third volumes are due to be issued in 1968 so that the whole edition is appearing one hundred years after Haekel's 'Generelle Morphologie der Organismen' (1866) and his 'Naturliche Schopfungsgeschichte' (1868); consequently this volume is in his memory and carries his portrait opposite the title page. It is likely that the subsequent volumes will be of more interest to readers of this journal, for the second will deal with evolutionary genetics and the third with the phylogeny of the hominidae. However, this volume will be prized by anyone who is interested in the evolution of animals and plants.

R. J. C. HARRIS


Those familiar with the first and second editions (1947 and 1957) need no recommendation for the third edition of this excellent handbook. It skilfully rejects what can be omitted (though still useful) to make room for material that must be included as a result of what Sir Peter Medawar calls, in his foreword, the three revolutions. These concern genetics, husbandry, and the control of disease. The first-named revolution allows control of the hereditary variation in the experimental animal; the second (which includes among many things the statement of the Animal Technician as a member of a profession ancillary to biological and medical science) allows control of the external environmental variation; and the third, which enables specification of animals in...