Announcement

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Portraits of Viruses: A Review Series

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Virology is now well established as a science in its own right; witness the ever-increasing number of publications, meetings and committees that are devoted solely to virology. It is now more than 'three score and ten years' since Ivanovsky and Beijerinck and Loeffler and Frosch realized that the diseases they were studying, tobacco mosaic and foot-and-mouth disease, were caused by novel types of pathogens, now called viruses. During this time several generations of virologists have contributed to the knowledge of the viruses of animals, plants and bacteria, and this knowledge has contributed greatly to man's understanding in other areas of science. Thus, it seemed to us that the time was ripe for a first collation to be made of the history of virology: its stories and characters, its successes and failures. After discussion with Or.J.L.Mel-nick, Editor-in-Chief of Intervirology, it was agreed that over a period of years we would endeavor to persuade virologists who had been associated with developments in virology, and especially with the study of particular viruses, to produce 'portraits' of some fifteen viruses (or viral families) whose study has been of critical importance in the development of virology and perhaps also of other branches of science like immunology, oncology or molecular biology. These will be published first in Intervirology and then they, and a number of other 'portraits' needed to round out the history of virology, will be assembled for publication in book form.

The first of these portraits, appropriately on the most 'venerable' viruses, the poxviruses, appears in this issue. Within the next year we expect to publish portraits of influenza virus, tobacco mosaic virus and, we hope, T-even or lambda bacteriophage. All such historical accounts involve personal judgements; as editors of the series we would greatly appreciate reactions from other virologists to the judgements expressed and to the content of the articles. If appropriate, these comments will be used to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the articles published in the book.