Book Review


The book ‘Lymphocyte Stimulation’ by N. R. Ling, has appeared on the scene at a time when such an endeavour is most needed and appreciated. Investigators, with apparent little knowledge of the field, have been utilizing the in vitro cell culture technique to demonstrate, clarify and elucidate a large number of unrelated phenomena (transplantate rejection, antibody formation, cellular immunity, relationships between lymphocytes of different lymphoid organs, etc.) in the absence of any established criteria with which to judge the validity of the conclusions gained from their investigations. Dr. Ling attempts to introduce order where chaos previously reigned, and logical and well-defined criteria to supplant the generally unconfirmed beliefs which have up to now permeated the field. The book is written in a forthright and lucid manner. The essential techniques are extremely well discussed and detailed so that a novice should be able to reproduce the technique without difficulty. Dr. Ling approaches the subject in a very systematic way. A discussion of the lymphocytes and the various techniques which have been utilized for culturing lymphocytes precedes that related to a description of blastogenesis, the various mitogenic agents and the immunologic implications of blastogenesis. The book concludes with a discussion of the mechanism of blastogenesis and its application to the clinical field.

Dr. Ling attempts to cover a great deal of ground and he succeeds admirably. The only criticism might be that a number of the subjects are treated rather lightly and in an impersonal manner. Controversial data are presented on an equal footing with no serious attempt to relate them or explain why conflicting results should be obtained under seemingly identical conditions. This referee feels that a great effort has gone into writing the book but that the author, who is a recognized authority in the field, could have been more specific and personal about the various interpretations and findings. 

M. Richter, Montreal

News Items

New York Academy of Sciences
Dr. G.B. West, one of Editors-in-Chief of the International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology, was elected a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences on December 3rd 1969.

This high honour has been made ‘in outstanding recognition for scientific achievement and promotion of science’.

First Philip Levine Award
Prof. Robin R. A. Coombs of Cambridge, England, joint-editor-in-chief of the International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology, developer of the Coombs’ anti-globulin test, has been honored as the first recipient of the Philip Levine Award given by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. The Society inaugurated the annual scientific award for recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of immunohematology.