

The Stability of the Differentiated State

Edited by H. Ursprung (Baltimore, Md.) with contributions by J. Abbott, A. C. Braun, A. L. Burnett, R. D. Cahn, W. Gehring, S. D. Hauschka, E. D. Hay, H. Holtzer, J. W. Lash, J. R. Whittaker. In "Results and Problems in Cell Differentiation" - a series of topical volumes in Development Biology. Springer Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1968. Bound volume with cover; 17 × 24 cm; XI + 154 pages; 54 black-and-white illustrations; tables and graphs. Price DM 54 (approx. \$ 13.50).

It more and more often happens, in the course of scientific progress, that—in the words of the editors of the series "Results and Problem in Cell Differentiation", in which the present volume is published—"a variety of seemingly unrelated avenues of research begin to illuminate one common problem". Hence, the collection of articles which build up this volume—all dealing with the central issue, stability of the differentiated state, although from different viewpoints: (1) Oscillations of the chondrogenic phenotype in vitro; (2) Phenotypic expression and differentiation: in vitro chondrogenesis; (3) The nature and probable cause of modulations in pigment cell cultures; (4) Clonal aspects of muscle development and the stability of the differentiated state; (5) Factors affecting inheritance and expression of differentiation: some methods of analysis; (6) Dedifferentiation and metaplasia in vertebrate and invertebrate regeneration; (7) The acquisition, maintenance, and lability of the differentiated state in hydra; (8) The multipotential cell and the tumor problem (9) The stability of the determined state in cultures of imaginal disks in "Drosophila".

Well illustrated, with very interesting electron micrographs, and beautifully produced, this book may prove of a large interest to all biologists.

Prominent Scientists of Continental Europe

By John Turkevich and Ludmilla B. Turkevich (Princeton and New Brunswick). American Elsevier Publishing Company, Inc. New York

1968. Bound volume with cover; 18 × 24 cm; X + 204 pages. Price Dfl. 77.50 (approx. \$ 23.00).

A collection of 3154 short biographies of European scientists, selected among members of National Academies and professors of leading Universities. The number of entries is subdivided among the different countries as follows: Austria 79, Belgium 99; Bulgaria 17; Czechoslovakia 149; Denmark 65; Finland 60; France 516; Germany (East and West) 550; Greece 20; Hungary 68; Iceland 5; Italy 168; Netherlands 108; Norway 40; Poland 160; Portugal 12; Rumania 170; Spain 48; Sweden 128; Switzerland 99; USSR 486; Yugoslavia 107.

Since, as stated by the authors, the questionnaires were apparently completed and sent back by some 75% of the scientists queried, some remarkable disproportions, as may be noticed by the above figures, and the absence of sometimes actually leading scientists as compared with the presence of sometimes very minor ones, should be mainly attributed to a lack of information on the part of the authors (although the well known laziness or indifference of some scientists may have played an important role). It is hoped that the announced new edition will not merely extend the number of entries, but will also adopt better selection criteria.

Report on the West Malaysian Family Survey 1966-1967

Edited and published by the National Family Planning Board, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 19 × 24 cm; bound volume of XLIV + 534 pages; 344 tables. The book may be ordered at the Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (1225 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104) at the price of US \$ 4.00.

A rate of population growth as high as 3% has pushed the Malaysian authorities to start administering an effective family planning program, in order to protect the economic development program of the country.