

repetition. Figures and reproduction of typescripts are generally good. Some of the manuscripts could have used more extensive editing. In general, however, the book gives a good account of a very exciting meeting. It is strongly recommended for the library of those studying or intending to study halophilic or salt-tolerant microorganisms, who will find the experimental detail most useful. The review chapters will give the general microbiologist a good background in

the subject (though many by the same authors have been published recently in such sources as Microbiological Reviews and Advances in Microbial Physiology.) The book should be in university or departmental libraries but not necessarily in those of all individual microbiologists or biochemists.

D. J. Kushner

*A Double Image of the Double Helix*

by Clifford Grobstein

W. H. Freeman; San Francisco, 1979

xii + 177 pages. £ 6.90 (hardcover), £3.50 (softcover)

This short history of the debate of the merits and hazards of recombinant DNA research will annoy those in the field and confuse those outside it. Much of the text is reprinted from the United States NIH documents on recombinants; there is little acknowledgment that the rest of the world exists, either scientifically or politically. The author comes down against regulation on philosophical grounds and discusses laboratory risk in detail, but industrial and military dangers hardly at all. Any book in a rapidly moving field like this is sure to be out of date when published, but in this case it is a particular pity that the author did not discuss hazard analysis of the type suggested by Sidney Brenner, which allows any dangers from

recombinant DNA to be put in perspective with other microbiological and chemical hazards. The flowery language of the book will irritate scientists, who are used to more direct writing. Radicals will be interested in the statement that physical attractiveness, personality and intelligence are 'polygenic' characteristics (page 61); intelligence may be debatable, but physical attractiveness? By the time the more interesting speculations at the end of the book are reached, most readers, I feel, will have been sufficiently offended by one or another of the views of the author to stop reading. This interesting field deserves better.

Bob Williamson

*Specificity of Embryological Interactions*

Edited by D. R. Garrod

Chapman and Hall; Andover, 1978

xii + 274 pages. £15.00

It is a widely held view that during development the position that cells come to occupy is determined by their adhesive properties, and that specificity of

adhesion could account for the patterning of cells including neural connections. This excellent volume fairly represents the range of current views on this